

**Let Eric Adams Govern NYC as He Sees Fit**  
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## Biden on Covid: “There is No Federal Solution” – GOP Calls Him “Incompetent”



President Joe Biden participates in the White House COVID-19 Response Team's virtual meeting with the National Governors Association to discuss the Covid-19 situation on Dec. 27. He said: "Look, there is no federal solution. This gets solved at a state level." Photo Credit: Michael Reynolds/Shutterstock

Edited by: TJVNews.com

The Covid-19 pandemic will end when the states sort out how to end it, according to President Joe Biden.

On Monday, during a virtual conversation that he conducted with a group of governors, Biden said of measures to curb the spread of Covid-19 and the recent Omicron variant, "Look, there is no federal solution. This gets solved at a state level."

Biden added: "And then it ultimately gets down to where the rubber meets the road, and that's where the patient is in need of help or preventing

the need for help."

According to a report in the New York Post, Republicans seized on President Biden's comment and demanded an end to government mandates while labeling him a "hypocrite" and "incompetent." Biden had pledged to "shut down the virus" during the 2020 presidential campaign.

The Republican National Committee referenced Biden's campaign promise in a post on Twitter, according to the Post report.

"Joe Biden claimed he would shut down the virus. Now a year later when he failed to do so, he says there is no federal solution to COVID," the RNC

said. "Joe Biden is a hypocrite," it concluded.

According to a Johns Hopkins University database, Covid cases have increased 66 percent in the US over the past seven days, but hospitalizations have risen only 4 percent in that same period.

The Post reported that Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) alleged on Twitter that Biden was "trying to avoid blame for his incompetence" and called on the president to "rescind his unconstitutional federal mandates."

"There's no federal solution, but the fed government can help by securing the border, approving safe treatments

& tests, and appointing competent leaders at the FDA & CDC," Cotton added.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican who has repeatedly criticized Biden over his administration's border policies, echoed Cotton's sentiments, according to the Post report.

"Biden says there's no federal solution to COVID and that this gets solved at a state level. He should immediately end his unconstitutional federal mandates," Abbott said on Twitter. "The Texas solution is no mandates and personal responsibility," the governor added.


South Dakota Republican Gover-

nor Kristi Noem on Tuesday called on President Biden to rescind all federal Covid-19 mandates after his comment on Monday that "there is no federal solution" to the pandemic.

The AP reported that U.S. health officials' decision to shorten the recommended COVID-19 isolation and quarantine period from 10 days to five is drawing criticism from some medical experts and could create more confusion and fear among Americans.

To the dismay of some authorities, the new guidelines allow people to

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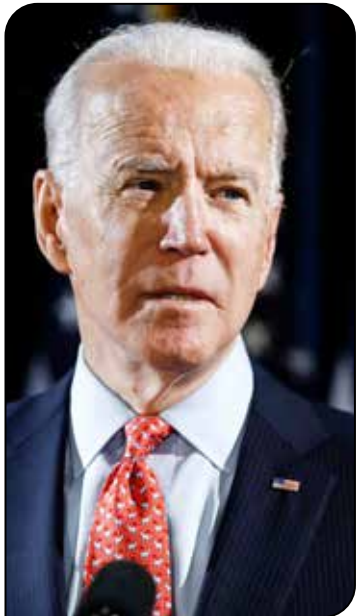
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**BIDEN ON COVID: "THERE IS NO FEDERAL SOLUTION"—GOP CALLS HIM "INCOMPETENT"**

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## NY's New Online "Disinformation" Bill Considered Vague by Experts

By: Jared Evan

New York State is about to introduce a bill that will make it a crime to promote "disinformation" on social media. The New York Post reports, New York would be able to hold social media companies accountable for promoting disinformation, eating disorders and "other unlawful content that could harm others" under a new proposal designed as a work-around to federal law. The new bill – sponsored by state Sen. Brad Hoylman (D-Manhattan) – comes as lawmakers across the country scramble to address harms attributed to Facebook and Instagram which were exposed in a series of leaks by whistleblower Frances Haugen earlier this year.

Corporations and private citizens would both be held responsible according to the legislation which reads, "No person, by conduct either unlawful in itself or unreasonable under all circumstances, shall knowingly or recklessly create, maintain or contribute to a condition in New York state that endangers the safety or health of the public through the promotion of content, including through the use of algorithms or solely automatic



systems that prioritize content by a method other than solely by time and date such content was created". According to The New York Post, an October Post investigation based on documents leaked by Haugen showed that Instagram knows that the app recommends pictures and videos that promote eating disorders to vulnerable teens. A follow-up in December showed that the app is still making

sickening content available to teens despite its promise of a crackdown. Other documents leaked by Haugen showed that Facebook has struggled to crack down on human trafficking and drug cartels on its sites, among other issues.

The distinction between 'hosting' and 'amplifying' content is incoherent, critics say. This bill sponsor has taken an incoherent idea and embraced its most censorial option, David Greene, a staff attorney, and civil liberties director at the Electronic Frontier Foundation said. Green also stated the bill raises First

Amendment concerns and added that determining what content counts as coronavirus-related misinformation is "really hard." "Public health guidance changes really quickly because what we know changes really quickly," Greene told The Post.

The internet has been used for nefarious purposes since its invention and social media has made it even easier for drug dealers, gang members, and human traffickers to conduct illegal activity. The federal government had not done enough to control social media, so the state must step in evidently. Going after what amounts to a freedom of speech issue is not getting to the true root of the problem.

## Business Booming for Real Estate Developers in NYC In Spite of Pandemic

Edited by: TJVNews.com

COVID-19 has not slowed the New York City real estate market. Midtown Manhattan has dozens of new developments in the works including residential, commercial, and office space. In a time when just about everything in life feels uncertain, real estate developers, financiers, and city-planners are moving ahead with massive construction projects in Midtown.

According to Steve Cuzzo, of The New York Post, "the mega-tower planned for the Grand Hyatt Hotel site on East 42nd Street — known as 175 Park Avenue — got its governmental green light his month when the City Council approved a zoning change to allow construction of the \$3 billion-plus mixed-use mammoth rising to 1,575 feet. To exploit East Midtown size-bonus rules, developers RXR Realty and TF Cornerstone will pay for and build hundreds of millions of dollars in Grand Central-area transit/



Awaiting their marching orders are the empty lots at 41-47 W. 57th and 12 W. 57th St., as demolition proceeds one block west at 125 W. 57th St". Photo Credit: newyorkyimby.com

pedestrian improvements and also provide 25,000 square feet of free-to-the-public outdoor terraces programmed for arts and cultural uses." According to a project spokesman, the demolition won't even begin until 2023.

The Post reports that Cuzzo goes on to say, "nearby in the Grand Central area, demolition has begun at 343 Madison Avenue, the former MTA headquarters. Boston Properties plans a 1,050-foot-tall tower with more than 800,000 square feet of offices and significant retail. It will also feature numerous underground pedestrian connec-

tions to Grand Central Terminal — which Boston is providing in exchange for a size bonus under new East Midtown rezoning rules. The project received its City Council green light last month".

More demolition is scheduled further uptown, according to Cuzzo. The New York Post reports, "West 57th Street between Fifth and Seventh avenues — aka Billionaires Row — is without question the most active location for major new projects. Awaiting their marching orders are the empty lots at 41-47 W. 57th and 12 W. 57th St., as demolition proceeds one block west at 125 W. 57th St".

Cuzzo makes a good point in his article that all the work to make these redevelopments happen was put in place years and years ago, developers "bought land and air rights, cobbled together financing and signed architects. Some nailed down city zoning and other approvals. Some demolished old structures in the way of their ambitions". As more and more people work from home and even greater numbers leave New York City altogether, it is surprising that the plans remain. One can only hope that the fact the financing still exists to make these "monster-buildings" means that the developers have positive hopes for the future of our city.

**"West 57th Street between Fifth and Seventh avenues — aka Billionaires Row — is without question the most active location for major new projects."**

# Jewish Student Attacked for Wearing IDF-Emblem Hoodie in NY

Calling the attack "abhorrent and unacceptable," the governor of New York said it is being investigated by the state's Hate Crimes Task Force.

By: **Batya Jerenberg**

A Jewish college student was assaulted in Brooklyn, NY Sunday when his attacker saw his army-style hoodie with the IDF emblem emblazoned on it, The New York Post reported Monday.

Blake Zavadsky and his friend, Ilan Kaganovich, were outside a shoe store around 11 AM when they were approached by two men who asked them what they were doing in "their" neighborhood, Zavadsky told the paper.

"They called us 'dirty Jews,'" he said. "The one who punched me said if I don't take my sweat-shirt off, he's going to rock me." When he refused the demand, the man punched him twice in the face and dumped an ice coffee over him before the pair fled.

Another violent antisemitic attack. When will Jews fight back?

Pair Of Men In Brooklyn Verbally, Physically Abused For Being Jewish - VINews https://t.co/LY7vztuMER

— Meir Weinstein (@WeinsteinMeir) December 27, 2021

Kaganovich, who said that the assailants warned him not



Blake Zavadsky and his friend, Ilan Kaganovich. (Photo: Twitter/Councilwoman Inna Vernikov)

to get involved, was in shock over the incident.

"I can't believe this happened," he said. "We should be able to wear whatever we want to wear. Blake and I are Jewish. We should support Israel without it being a problem. My family moved from the Soviet Union for this reason - to be able to live a better life."

Another part of the incident that disturbed them was that although the attack happened in broad daylight and there were other people in the street, the passersby did nothing to help them, the young men added.

Zadavsky, however, was not deterred by the antisemitism he had just painfully experienced, and would continue to wear his hoodie.

"You can't be scared to walk outside and say you're Jewish," he said. "You have to be proud of who you are and stand up for what you believe — and not be intimidated."

Believing, as Zadavsky said, that "all we have to do is spread the word and make sure it doesn't happen to anyone else," he and Kaganovich told their local councilwoman, Inna Vernikov, what had happened. As a first-generation American to Ukrainian immigrants, she, too, compared the attack to the Jew hatred common in the former USSR.

"Jews were beaten, jailed, and ostracized from society just for being Jewish," she told the Post. "We escaped to this country for freedom of religion, and here we go again, getting beaten up in broad daylight in the middle of Brooklyn, NY, in the United States of America."

New York Governor Kathy Hochul condemned the assault in no uncertain terms.

SEE JEWISH STUDENT ATTACKED, PAGE 40

# Who's Who in Eric Adams' New Admin? A Profile of Jose Bayona

By: **Fern Sidman**

New York City Mayor-Elect Eric Adams on Thursday announced a slate of appointments for his incoming administration. The appointees - one of whom will head a newly-created Mayor's Office - reflect Mayor-elect Adams' stated commitment to building a team that looks like the people it serves, and will ensure that he can deliver on his vision for a safer, more prosperous, and more equitable city for all.

José Bayona will serve as the inaugural Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Ethnic and Community Media. The office was established by Local Law 83, which passed the City Council in June 2021. It aims to promote City services and programs through partnerships and campaigns with a diverse array of media outlets that serve people across the five boroughs, particularly those living in immigrant communities and communities with a high proportion of people who do not speak English as a first language.

Speaking to the Jewish Voice, Mr. Bayona (who is the Senior Adviser and incoming Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Ethnic and Community Media) said: "The new Mayor's Office of Ethnic and Commu-



José Bayona will serve as the inaugural Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Ethnic and Community Media. Photo Credit: Twitter

nity Media, the first one of its kind in our country, is a historic recognition of the hard work of hundreds of ethnic and community media outlets that are the voice of millions of immigrants, working-class and every day New Yorkers living in our communities throughout this city. I deeply thank Mayor-elect Eric Adams for the opportunity to lead this newly-created Office in his administration and proudly serve the most diverse city in the world."

Mr. Bayona has served as spokesperson for Mayor Bill de Blasio and held the title of Director of Community and Ethnic Media and Deputy Press

Secretary at the Mayor's Office where he managed communications for 20 city agencies, including the Administration for Children's Services, Department of Youth & Community Development, NYC 2020 Census Office, Mayor's Office of Community Affairs, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Mayor's Office of International Affairs, Board of Elections, Democracy NYC, Civic Engagement Commission, Charter Revision Commission, and the NYC Department of Veteran Services.

At City Hall, Mr. Bayona also supervised the implementation of the Executive Order 47, which required City agencies to spend at least half of their annual print and digital advertising budget on Community and Ethnic media, and managed the City's Community and Ethnic Media directory for advertising purposes, which includes more than 350 outlets citywide.

During the 2021 mayoral primary campaign, Bayona crafted the proposal for the new Mayor's Office of Ethnic and Community Media (MOECM), the first Mayor's office in the United States dedicated to strengthening the relationship between city government and ethnic media

SEE WHO'S WHO IN ERIC ADAMS' NEW ADMIN, PAGE 39

# Despite Omicron, Sardi's Restaurant is Reopening in NYC's Theater District

By: **Serach Nissim**

After being shuttered for 648 days, Sardi's restaurant in the heart of New York City's theater district, is reopening. The continental restaurant located at 234 West 44th Street, between Broadway and Eighth Avenue, is opening just in time for show cancellations amid fear of the super-contagious COVID-19 variant, Omicron.

The famed Broadway restaurant and bar, with caricatures of celebrity patrons covering the walls, is back in business, even though the timing is less than optimal. As reported by the NY Times, when Max Klimavicius, who runs the joint, chose the date Dec. 21 for a soft reopening, things were different. At the time, the Broadway schedule was boasting 33 shows slated to perform. Since then, however, so many of the actors and crew members have been testing positive for coronavirus that only 18 shows actually took place that night—and one of the shows only made it because the playwright replaced a sick performer on stage.

The restaurant—reopened with limited hours, a limited menu and reduced capacity, has become a tourist magnet over the years. Still, its business is closely connected to the theatre and very much dependent



After being shuttered for 648 days, Sardi's restaurant in the heart of New York City's theater district, is reopening. Photo Credit: nycgo.com

on Broadway show crowds. In 2018-2019, which was the last full season before the pandemic struck, roughly 14.8 million people saw a show on Broadway. As per The NY Times, a total of \$1.8 million was spent that season on show tickets, not to mention the money patrons spent on nearby restaurants like Sardi's, and on nearby shops and hotels.

Sardi's, established in 1947, has become a Times Square icon for many. "Sardi's is a symbol of Broadway and the Broadway scene, and it's been closed for far too long," said Tom Harris, the president of the Times Square Alliance, which represents the theater-dependent neighborhood, which occupies just 0.1 percent of the city's

land mass, but accounts for 15 percent of the city's economic productivity.

Despite the timing, many were bullish on the reopening. "Sardi's is going to do very well, now that the theater is back," said Robert E. Wankel, the chairman and chief executive of the Shubert Organization, which has 17 Broadway theaters, and which is the restaurant's landlord. Other industry bars, including Joe Allen and Bar Centrale, reopened some time ago. "I know Times Square needs to come back, and I know Sardi's needs to come back," said designer Michael Kors.

"The place has to live," said Mr. Klimavicius, regarding the restaurant. "It's part of the fabric."



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# NY Gov Hochul Vetoes 'Anti-Hasidic' Land Restrictions Bill

Orthodox Jewish groups welcome decision, while local politicians deny legislation had discriminatory intent.

By: WIN Staff

New York Governor Kathy Hochul vetoed a controversial land preservation bill on Wednesday which critics argued was discriminatory and aimed at stopping the growth of a Hasidic Jewish community in Orange County.

"There have been well-documented tensions in Orange County between local elected officials and members of the Hasidic community," Hochul said in a statement explaining her reasons for the veto.

Referencing a 2019 bill which was vetoed by then-governor Andrew Cuomo, Hochul said that this bill was nearly identical and that was found to be problematic both from a legal and logistical standpoint.

"Similar tensions in the nearby Town of Chester resulted in litigation. It would be inappropriate to sign this legislation at this juncture, while facts are still being gathered about the situation."

While Hochul did not explicitly acknowledge the discriminatory elements of the bill, Jewish groups welcomed her decision.

"Thank you, Gov. Kathy Ho-



New York Gov. Kathy Hochul vetoed a controversial land preservation bill on Wednesday which critics argued was discriminatory and aimed at stopping the growth of a Hasidic Jewish community in Orange County. (YouTube/TODAY/Screenshot)

chul, for vetoing S1811/A5761 that would limit development in Blooming Grove," wrote the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and North Brooklyn in a joint statement on Twitter.

"We wrote last month to the governor asking to veto that bill that would discriminate against Hasidic Jews. Thank you for standing up for fair housing for all."

Critics said that the bill's language cloaked discriminatory building restrictions intended to prevent Hasidic Jews from

expanding their communities in an environmentally-concerned veneer.

"It's a disgrace that such bills even get out of committees," said Yossi Gestetner, co-founder of the Orthodox Jewish Public Affairs Council.

"Those bills are written with the false and bigoted assumption that growth of said communities are a problem when in fact they are an economic and tax boon for local communities

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# NY Banks Urged to Waive Transfer, Processing Fees for Holocaust Reparation Payments

By: JNS

"These fees impose a significant burden on elderly Holocaust survivors, victims and heirs who often rely on these payments to meet their everyday needs," Acting Superintendent Adrienne Harris said in a press release on Wednesday.

The New York State Department of Financial Services has asked state-chartered financial institutions to waive wire transfer and processing fees for recipients of Holocaust reparations if they do not already do so.

"These fees impose a significant burden on elderly Holocaust survivors, victims and heirs who often rely on these payments to meet their everyday needs," Acting Superintendent Adrienne Harris said in a press release on Wednesday. "Waiving these fees sends a powerful message on the willingness of New York's financial community to have a meaningful impact on the lives of the people they serve."

The department estimated that over 20,000 Holocaust survivors currently live in the New York City metro area. The Holocaust survivors and their heirs are charged between \$15 and \$40 per transaction on each compensation payment.



"These fees impose a significant burden on elderly Holocaust survivors, victims and heirs who often rely on these payments to meet their everyday needs," Acting Superintendent Adrienne Harris said in a press release on Wednesday

Acting Superintendent Harris said in her letter to NY Chartered Bank: "As you may recall, over two decades ago, New York State created the Holocaust Claims Processing Office (HCPO) within the Department of Financial Services to assist Holocaust victims and their heirs navigate the complicated bureaucracy of international restitution programs. The HCPO remains the only government agency providing assistance free of charge to this vulnerable population, serving individuals from nearly all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 39 countries.

Your institution is in a unique position to work with

the HCPO to correct this unfortunate situation. I urge you to voluntarily waive wire transfer and processing fees associated with Holocaust reparations and restitution payments, if your institution does not do so at this time. Although a small number of institutions have agreed to waive these fees in the past, this group represents less than 5% of the financial institutions in New York State. There is currently no reliable list of institutions that have committed to waiving these fees nor do recipients know how to exercise their right to benefit from

SEE NY BANKS URGED TO WAIVE TRANSFER, PAGE 40

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# Schwarzman's Blackstone Investments in 2021 Include Some IPO Duds

By Benjamin Davidsons

Blackstone Group will have some explaining to do to investors, due to losses it made on a few of its Initial Public Offerings.

As reported by the NY Post, while it's been a record-breaking year for IPOs, the IPO aftermarket has been a disappointment across the board for 2021. Billionaire Stephen Schwarzman's Blackstone is among investors who picked a few duds in the IPO market. The private-equity giant holds a hefty ownership stake in 10 companies that went public on the New York Stock Exchange or Nasdaq in 2021, including one sold to a SPAC, or special-purpose acquisition company. Half of those companies are now trading well below their offering prices.

Four of the firms, which Blackstone picked up, have tumbled more than 30 percent in the last 90 days. Among them is Oatly oat drink brand, whose stock is down to \$8.14 from \$16.30, marking a 50 percent decline. Another is Bumble dating app, founded by Whitney Wolfe, which fell 35 percent in that time period, tumbling to \$34.87 from \$53.50. The IPO performance presents a sharp contrast to the S&P 500, which rose 24 percent for the year, and the Nasdaq, which is up 19 percent.



Billionaire Stephen Schwarzman's Blackstone is among investors who picked a few duds in the IPO market. Photo Credit: AP

In 2021, roughly 1,000 companies went public- an unprecedented number of deals which managed to raise a record \$300 billion. In their aftermath, however, their stocks are down 20 percent this year compared to the S&P 500, says University of Florida Professor Jay Ritter, who is known as "Mr. IPO". "Investors were buying IPOs on a lot of optimistic assumptions," Ritter added.

As per The Post, Oatly, which went public in May, missed earnings forecasts in its most recent quarter. Last month, the company announced it had to conduct a limited recall related to "loose metal items" found in its milk-processing equipment. In the meantime, Bumble posted a decline in overall

user growth in its third quarter. Paying customers dropped to 2.87 million down from 2.93 million in the previous quarter. Analysts fear that the dating app was fueled by the pandemic, and the growth is not sustainable. On Thursday, the dating app stock closed at \$34.87, down from an all-time high of \$84.80 per share after the IPO in February.

A Blackstone rep told The Post its 2021 IPOs have delivered "exceptional absolute and relative performance" saying they are up 32 percent on average from when they went public. That data includes Sona Comstar, an auto technology company which listed its shares on the National Stock Exchange of India.

# Twitter's Jack Dorsey Blocked on his Social Network Over "Web3" Spat

By Serach Nissim

Twitter co-founder, Jack Dorsey, has been blocked on his own social-media network.

As reported by the NY Post, venture capitalist Marc Andreessen blocked Dorsey amid a spat about the trendy crypto concept known as "Web3". On Wednesday, Dorsey posted a screenshot showing that he was blocked by Andreessen, the co-founder of Silicon Valley venture capital firm named Andreessen Horowitz. "I'm officially banned from web3," Dorsey wrote. Last month, Dorsey had stepped down from his leadership role at Twitter, to focus fulltime on Block, his payments company, formerly known as Square.

Of late, there has been an escalating rift between tech titans like Dorsey, Elon Musk and a squad of Silicon Valley investors including Andreessen, who say they want to disrupt the inter-



Venture capitalist Marc Andreessen blocked Twitter Co-Founder Jack Dorsey amid a spat about the trendy crypto concept known as "Web3". Photo Credit: AP

net. Web 3 is an idea for a new iteration of the internet that incorporates decentralization based on blockchains.

Backers of the Web3 ideology say it's a vision in which blockchain technology and cryptocurrency will give individual users co-ownership of the internet, lessening the ability tech titans like Facebook, Google and Twitter have to control speech and limit competition.

On the other hand, critics of Web3, including Dorsey and Elon Musk, say its all just a marketing ploy to take power away from some rich tech investors and transfer it to different

rich tech investors. Earlier this week, as part of the argument, Dorsey had tweeted: "You don't own 'web3.' The VCs and their LPs do," referring to venture capitalists and their funders. "It will never escape their incentives. It's ultimately a centralized entity with a different label," Dorsey wrote.

"I'm anti-centralized, VC-owned, single point of failure, and corporate controlled lies," wrote Dorsey in a different post last week. "If your goal is anti establishment, I promise you it isn't ethereum. Don't believe or trust me! Just look at the fundamentals." The tech tycoon who is worth an estimated \$9.4 billion has been criticizing the cryptocurrency Ethereum, which is being embraced by many Web3 supporters.

Last week, Dorsey also taunted Chris Dixon, a partner at Andreessen Horowitz. "You're a fund determined to be a media empire that can't be ignored... not Gandhi," Dorsey had commented. Dorsey also poked fun at Andreessen Horowitz in a chat with Elon Musk, who asked on Twitter whether any followers had actual seen Web3. "It's somewhere between a and z," Dorsey commented. Shortly after that, Andreessen blocked Dorsey on Twitter.

Andreessen Horowitz did not immediately respond to a request for comment by the Post.

**Critics of Web3, including Dorsey and Elon Musk, say its all just a marketing ploy to take power away from some rich tech investors and transfer it to different rich tech investors.**

# Judge Upholds Ruling Against NYT Over Project Veritas Memos

By: AP

A New York judge has upheld an order preventing The New York Times from publishing documents between conservative group Project Veritas and its lawyer and ruled that the newspaper must immediately relinquish confidential legal memos it obtained.

The decision Thursday by State Supreme Court Justice Charles D. Wood in Westchester County, released Friday, comes in a defamation lawsuit Project Veritas filed against the Times in 2020.

Months after the lawsuit was filed, the newspaper reported that the U.S. Justice Department was investigating Project Veritas in connection with the theft of a diary belonging to Ashley Biden, the president's daughter. In that story, the Times quoted the memos, leading Project Veritas to accuse the newspaper of violating attorney-client privilege.

Wood upheld his earlier order preventing the Times from further publishing the memos, and also ruled that the newspaper must turn over physical copies of the documents and destroy electronic versions.

The newspaper reported it would appeal the ruling and seek a stay in the meantime. Publisher A.G. Sulzberger de-



A New York judge has upheld an order preventing The New York Times from publishing documents between conservative group Project Veritas and its lawyer and ruled that the newspaper must immediately relinquish confidential legal memos it obtained. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

cried the ruling as an attack of press freedoms and alarming for "anyone concerned about the dangers of government overreach into what the public can and cannot know." He also said it risked exposing sources.

"In defiance of law settled in the Pentagon Papers case, this judge has barred The Times from publishing information about a prominent and influential organization that was obtained legally in the ordinary course of reporting," Sulzberger said in a statement reported by the Times that also asserted there was no precedent for Wood's decision.

Project Veritas bills itself as

a watchdog, often of media. It's known for using hidden cameras and hiding identities to try to ensnare journalists in embarrassing conversations and to reveal supposed liberal bias.

In a statement Friday, Project Veritas lawyer Elizabeth Locke hailed the ruling as "a victory for the First Amendment for all journalists and affirms the sanctity of the attorney-client relationship."

"The New York Times has long forgotten the meaning of the journalism it claims to espouse, and has instead become a vehicle

SEE JUDGE UPHOLDS RULING AGAINST, PAGE 40

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2

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3

### VENEZUELAN DICTATOR, NICOLAS MADURO

AN ISRAELI LAW FIRM THREATENED TO SUE THE JEWISH VOICE FOR PUBLISHING THE TRUTH ABOUT THEIR CLIENT'S ASSOCIATION WITH VENEZUELAN DICTATOR, NICOLAS MADURO.

4

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# Condo Sale at Vornado's 220 Central Park South Tips the Project Sellout Beyond \$3B

By: Hellen Zaboulani

Another apartment has been scooped up at the famed apartment building at 220 Central Park South. This one, for a price tag of \$14.5 million, has been purchased by the dean of New York University's Grossman School of Medicine, Robert Grossman and his wife, Elisabeth Cohen.

As reported by the Real Deal, the Billionaire Row purchase marked a milestone for the building's developer, Vornado Realty Trust. This deal brings total sales at the building to above \$3 billion.

Mr. Grossman, who the school was renamed after in 2019, has been leading the school since 2007. It was under his leadership, that the 10 million-square-foot expansion was undertaken for NYU's hospital system in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Long Island. In 2018, he also led the endeavor to eliminate tuition for medical doctorate students at the school.

JPMorgan Chase doled out an \$8 million mortgage loan for the purchase.

The Central Park South building has made plenty of headlines already for its pricy sales. Opened in 2018, the 70-story skyscraper on 58th street, designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects and SLCE Architects, is the 17th-tallest building in New



Another apartment has been scooped up at the famed apartment building at 220 Central Park South. This one, for a price tag of \$14.5 million, has been purchased by the dean of New York University's Grossman School of Medicine, Robert Grossman and his wife, Elisabeth Cohen. Photo Credit: Wikipedia.com

York City. In 2019, the title of the most expensive home ever sold in the United States was given to a \$238 million unit purchased in the building by billionaire hedge fund manager Kenneth C. Griffin.

In a third quarter earnings call, Vornado announced that it closed sales on 104 of the 118 units at the building as of Sept. 30, making net profits of \$2.97 billion. After the report, another condo sold in October for \$27.4 million, upping net proceeds to \$2.99 billion.

As per the Real Deal, luxury residential real estate has been on a roll thanks to low interest rates. Sales of super-luxury homes across the country have surged since the feds lowered interest rates after the pandemic, as per data from appraisal firm Miller Samuel.

In 2021, over 40 homes sold in the U.S. for \$50 million or more, marking an increase in luxury sales of 35 percent compared to the previous year. "The lower the rates, the higher the prices," said Jonathan Miller, president of Miller Samuel.

The state of New York led the way for the nationwide residential splurge, with 13 sales valued at a total of \$931 million. The biggest sale in the tally came from none other than 220 Central Park South, where another duplex sold for \$157.5 to Alibaba co-founder Joe Tsai.

# Kushner Properties Buys \$200M in Houston Multifamily Residences

By: Hadassa Kalatizadeh

Sunbelt Holdings, a subsidiary of Kushner properties, is expanding into high growth areas.

As reported by the Real Deal, on Wednesday the real estate firm connected to Jared Kushner's family, closed on three multi-family properties in Houston, Texas. The company shelled out a total of \$200 million for the portfolio in the high-growth North Houston submarkets of Tomball, Cypress and Lake Houston.

As per the Real Deal, the deals involve all new-construction apartment complexes. In 2020, a national builder broke ground on the properties, and leasing was completed this year on all three properties. The number of units in the purchased complexes totals 1,072. The units are all one- and three-bedroom apartments, with an average size of 1,034 square feet. The average rent price for the units is a little more than \$1,500 per month. The complexes are all Class A workforce housing and include amenities expected of high-end multifamily properties, as per the source familiar with the deal.

The three deals were brokered by Berkadia, and Freddie Mac was the lender for all the deals. The purchases mark the firm's entry into the Houston market, said Riley Wilson, head of Sun-



Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Laurent Morali, and President Nicole Kushner Meyer, Kushner's r's portfolio is being valued at more than \$15 billion as of 2021. Photo Credit: therealdeal.com

belt acquisitions for Kushner. Wilson wrote in an email that the portfolio of high-quality assets in "well thought-out locations ... provides a unique opportunity to acquire scale in strong submarkets that will benefit greatly from the ever-growing city of Houston."

Throughout 2021, Kushner Cos has been expanding aggressively, having purchased some 8,000 multifamily units across the southern part of the country this year alone. The purchased units were relatively new — constructed after 2010. The company sold off roughly 6,000 units this year, mostly older complexes built around the 1970s and located in the eastern United States.

The multifamily market has appeal for the Kushner Co's operation, as well as many other companies with aspirations to expand, because of the strong fundamentals including population and job growth in the areas. The company has also been expanding its presence in the regions of Florida, Texas and Georgia. The firm will be breaking ground in Fort Lauderdale in 2022, to develop a four-tower site approved for 1,500 apartments, in a joint venture with Aimco.

Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Laurent Morali, and President Nicole Kushner Meyer, Kushner's r's portfolio is being valued at more than \$15 billion as of 2021.

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# Developer of 432 Park Ave Responds to \$125M Condo Board Lawsuit Over Bldg Defects

Edited by: TJVNews.com

**L**awsuit from The developer of 432 Park Avenue, one of the world's tallest and most luxurious condominium towers, on Wednesday filed its answer to a \$125 million lawsuit from the building's condo board over alleged construction defects, calling the board's suit "ill-advised" and "an effort to wrest unwarranted payments" from the developer, according to a recent Wall Street Journal article. The WSJ report added that the answer, filed in New York State Supreme Court by an entity controlled by Los Angeles-based CIM Group, also alleged that the complaints raised by the board had been "vastly exaggerated."

As trendy as it may sound and appealing it may be to those who wish to live in a skyscraper that is very close to 1400 feet high in the heart of Billionaires' Row, there are numerous drawbacks and even serious safety issues that have plagued this unique building.

In September, a lawsuit was filed on behalf of the condo board of the building, as was reported in the New York Times. In 2020, the residents took over the condo board from the sponsors. The residents, represented by attorney Jonathan Adelsberg, (a partner at Herrick, Feinstein) are suing the developers for \$125 million in damages. The lawsuit cites multiple floods, faulty elevators, "intolerable" noise caused by building sway,



432 Park Avenue has 85 stories above ground: a mezzanine and 84 numbered stories. Five two-story windbreaks, spaced every 12 floors from the top, are unenclosed and serve to reduce the tower's wind load. Photo Credit: Wikipedia

and an electrical explosion in June (the second in three years) which knocked out power to residents, as was reported by the Times.

Developed by CIM Group along with real estate mover and shaker Harry B. Macklowe and designed by Rafael Vinoly, the residential skyscraper at 56th Street and Park Avenue in Midtown Manhattan that is known as 432 Park

Avenue is not only the third-tallest residential building in the world with exquisite views of the city. It is home to the wealthy and famous but unfortunately as with most unique real estate ventures, there is an unseemly dark side to this Billionaires' Row tower.

432 Park Avenue is located on the site of the former Drake Hotel, which was sold to Macklowe in 2006. The project faced delays for five years because of lack of financing as well as difficulties in acquiring the properties on the site. Construction plans were approved for 432 Park Avenue in 2011 and excavations began the next year. Sales within 432 Park Avenue were launched in 2013; the building topped out during October 2014 and was officially completed in 2015. The tower is segmented into 12-story blocks separated by open double-story mechanical spaces that allow wind gusts to pass through the building.

432 Park Avenue has 85 stories above ground: a mezzanine and 84 numbered stories. Five two-story windbreaks, spaced every 12 floors from the top, are unenclosed and serve to reduce the tower's wind load. The windbreaks contain modular mechanical services for the six floors above and below to reduce required ducting. The floor numbering system includes mechanical levels near the building's base, so the top story is numbered as floor 96. The building is so tall, even compared to others in New York City, that its construction required approval from Federal Aviation Administration.

According to the September complaint filed in New York State Supreme Court, "This case presents one of the worst examples of sponsor malfeasance in the development of a luxury condominium in the history of New York City," referring to the developers, CIM Group and Macklowe Properties.

The Times reported that the damages include the "estimated cost to repair some 1,500 construction and design defects in common ele-

***In their defense, the sponsor which includes CIM group provided a statement to the Times through a spokesman which said: "Each and every commitment and term contained in the 432 Park Offering Plan and Declaration has been honored."***

ments of the building that were identified by an engineering firm hired by the condo board; it does not include potential punitive damages, or separate lawsuits that individual residents might file."

In their defense, the sponsor which includes CIM group provided a statement to the Times through a spokesman which said: "Each and every commitment and term contained in the 432 Park Offering Plan and Declaration has been honored." They added that some of the remaining "maintenance and close-out items" have been obstructed by the condo board, as was reported by the Times.

The WSJ reported that the suit alleged that issues for some residents were so severe that they were displaced from their units for as long as 19 months while the sponsor tried to fix the problems.

The board's lawsuit also alleged that the developers failed to account for the building's height and sway when it came to the design of the elevators, which the suit alleged had repeatedly malfunctioned, trapping residents and their family members for hours at a time and making it near impossible for others to access their apartments, according to the WSJ report. Common charges for condominium owners rose by about 39% in 2019, due in part to a 300% increase in the property's insurance premiums stemming from mismanagement by the developer, the board's lawsuit said.

***According to the September complaint filed in New York State Supreme Court, "This case presents one of the worst examples of sponsor malfeasance in the development of a luxury condominium in the history of New York City," referring to the developers, CIM Group and Macklowe Properties.***

## 2021's Most Expensive Manhattan Condominium Filings

By Ilana Siyance

**D**evelopers' aspirations are quite higher this year compared to last year. The 10 most pricey condo offering plans accepted by the attorney general's office this year showoff a total projected sellout of \$3.14 billion. As reported by the Real Deal, that's close to 70 percent higher than last year's top 10 most expensive condo projects, which had an expected sellout of only \$1.86 billion. The 2021's filing were emulated 2019, when the top 10 projects amounted to \$3.1 billion. The 2021 filings are still quite shy from 2018's accepted projects, where the top 10 projects expected a total sellout of a whopping \$7.3 billion. That year, there were two star projects, which each sought \$2 billion in total for the condos. Since then, we have not again seen even a \$1 billion condo project.

The top 10 condo filing list for 2021 features four projects on the Upper East Side, with a projected total of 187 residences and a combined sellout of \$1.18 billion. Naftali Group is behind two of those projects, namely The Belmont and 200 East 83rd Street. In total, for the two projects, Naftali is aiming to add 98 luxury homes for a total selling price of \$765 million.



Naftali Group is behind two of those projects, namely The Belmont and 200 East 83rd Street. Photo Credit: the-bellefont.com

As per The Real Deal, the most expensive filing for 2021, with a sellout price of \$560 million is The Cortland, in West Chelsea. Related Companies aims to develop a 25-story building with 144 units overlooking the Hudson River and Hudson River Park. Next on the list is 200 East 83rd Street, by Naftali together with Rockefeller Group, with a projected sellout price is \$544 million. The tower, being designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects, will boast 83 condos, an automated parking garage, children's game rooms, and a fitness center with a 70-foot pool. Third on the list is The Solaire in Battery Park with a total sellout price of \$475 million. The building, being de-

veloped by Albanese Organization and Northwestern Mutual, will have 293 units.

Developer Michael Shvo's conversion from offices at 685 Fifth Avenue made it to fourth on the list. Ten floors will be added to the existing building to deliver 69 posh residences, with a rooftop pool and terrace. The project sellout price is \$343 million. Number 5 on the list is The Era, with a sellout price of \$275 million. The Upper West Side building, being developed by Adam America Real Estate and Northlink Capital, will offer 57 condo units.

Notably, this year's filings have no glassy towers. Stone and brick facades with large windows are the new faze.

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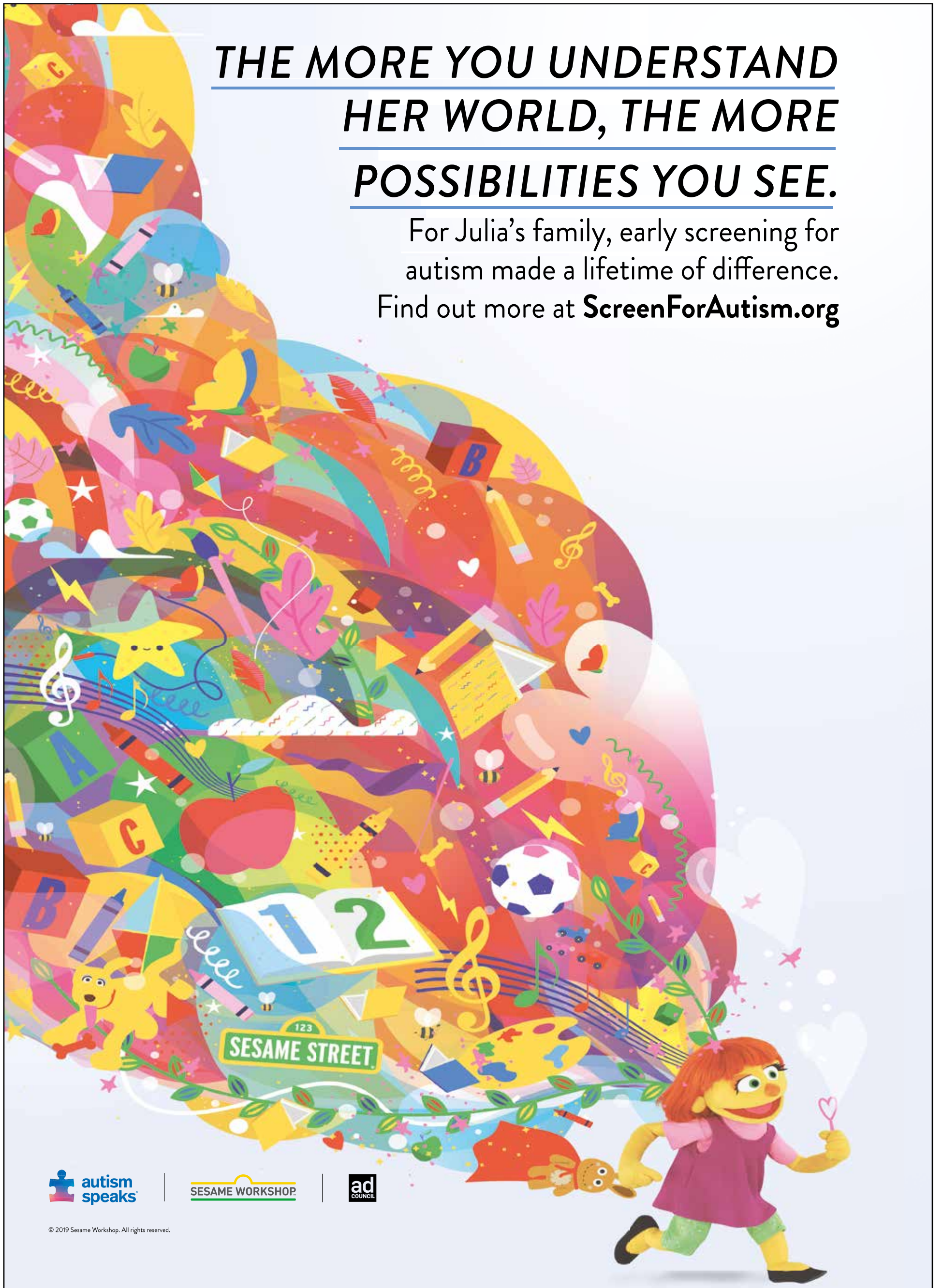
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# Head of Ben & Jerry's Board Crowned 2021 "Anti-Semite of the Year"

Edited by: TJVNews.com

Anuradha Mittal, the head of Ben & Jerry's Board of Directors and Vice President of Ben & Jerry's Foundation Inc. has been crowned 2021 Antisemite of the Year by watchdog group StopAntisemitism. After several weeks of voting, thousands selected Mittal for the distinct dishonor, beating the other two finalists Dua Lipa and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene.

Earlier this year, Mittal spearheaded the effort by Ben & Jerry's to stop the sale of its ice cream to 800,000 Jews living throughout various parts of Israel. This decision was clearly not made for the sake of the Palestinian people who are now also unable to purchase a pint from the Vermont ice cream maker. This is a blatantly antisemitic boycott. In response, multiple U.S. states have announced that, according to their anti-BDS laws, they are divesting their pension fund holdings from parent company Unilever, with several more ex-

**Earlier this year, Mittal spearheaded the effort by Ben & Jerry's to stop the sale of its ice cream to 800,000 Jews living throughout various parts of Israel.**



Anuradha Mittal, the head of Ben & Jerry's Board of Directors and Vice President of Ben & Jerry's Foundation Inc. has been crowned 2021 Antisemite of the Year by watchdog group StopAntisemitism. Photo Credit-YouTube

pected to follow. Unilever's stock price has dropped significantly as well, dealing a harsh blow to its equity and further proving that antisemitism has far reaching consequences beyond those that spout it.

Mittal's history with antisemitism is long and upsetting. Under Mittal's leadership in 2018, Ben & Jerry's made the controversial decision to partner with notorious antisemite Linda Sarsour, an American-Palestinian activist who was booted from the Women's March for promot-

ing hatred towards the Jewish people and nation.

Mittal is also the Founder and Executive Director of the anti-Israel Oakland Institute, a policy think tank where she helped write a series of reports called "Palestine for Land and Life," which falsely accused Israel of apartheid, colonialism and more. In addition, she has leveraged her status at Ben & Jerry's to fund antisemitic projects through the Oakland Institute, including Badil, a Palestinian group with ties to terror organizations and a history of vile Jew hatred that includes publishing Nazi era cartoons.

"For us and for the voters, Mittal was clearly the 2021 Antisemite of the Year," said StopAntisemitism Founder and Executive Director Liora Rez. "The Ben & Jerry's boycott is shamelessly biased, and Mittal's commitment to promoting her antisemitic and anti-Israel agenda is deplorable. The way she has leveraged her namesake and power in the corporate world to promote antisemitic initiatives is horrendous. Sadly, Ben and Jerry's corporate antisemitism is not an isolated case. StopAntisemitism has found antisemitic incidents in many large American corporations in our 2021 report. It doesn't matter how much influence they have; we're here to hold antisemites accountable for their bigoted actions."

# Anti-Vax Posters Featuring Star of David Found Across Los Angeles Area

COVID-related antisemitism on rise in L.A.

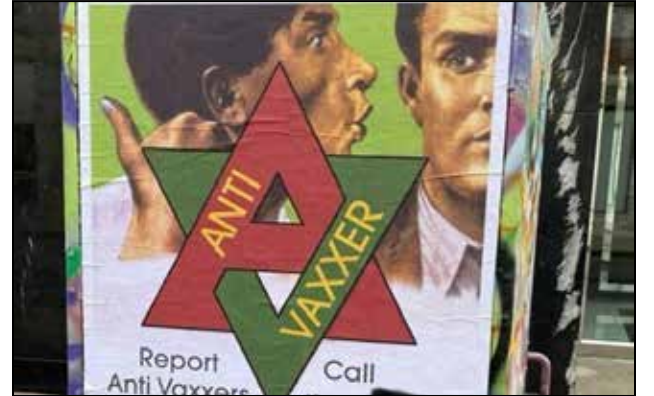
By: JNS.org

Anti-vaccine posters that featured a Star of David on them were discovered in at least two Los Angeles-area locations this week, including pasted to an electrical box outside a synagogue.

The first was found outside the Baba Sale Congregation and showed the letters "A" and "V" overlapping to form a Star of David. The same poster was found in front of a building affiliated with Cedar-Sinai Medical Center. Both fliers said, "Report Anti-Vaxxers, because you care and they don't," and included a telephone number that, according to a local media outlet, went to a restaurant in Hollywood.

The Baba Sale synagogue is no stranger to hateful messages; in 2019, vandals spray-painted "Free Palestine" on the building's exterior.

Magen Am—a nonprofit, armed security patrol in the heavily Jewish Los Angeles neighborhoods made up of former Israel Defense Forces and U.S. military veterans—has been in touch with the local police and has moved around its patrol to "cover additional daytime hours, as much of this has been happening in broad



Anti-vaccine posters that featured a Star of David on them were discovered in the Los Angeles-area. (Magen Am via JNS)

daylight," according to Leibel Mangel, the group's executive director.

The anti-vax posters were the most-recent incident of anti-Jew hatred tied to COVID-19. Just this weekend, people in nearby Beverly Hills and Pasadena found fliers on their front yards from the virulently antisemitic Goyim Defense League, that claimed Jews are responsible for or profiting from the pandemic. They were among hundreds of people in eight states across the country who also received those hate-filled fliers.

It was the second time in as many months that such fliers were left in Beverly Hills, which is "one of the only Jewish-ma-

majority cities outside of Israel," according to local officials.

In a release, the local police and city council members said "these cowardly acts and any divisive attempts of intimidation will be rejected outright.... the City condemns this unwarranted hate speech that has been unsuccessfully used to disparage a community that has, and always will, stand strong together and fight hatred of any kind."

"Senseless acts like this have no home here and will never be accepted. Our community is home to families of survivors of the Holocaust who have seen evil and will never give in to such attacks," the release went on to say. (JNS.ORG)

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## Former PM Benjamin Netanyahu: 'New Likud' is a Threat to the Country

"New Likud members are a Trojan horse; they want to destroy the Likud party from within."

By: Hezki Baruch

On Sunday afternoon, former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived at an internal court hearing of the Likud party for a hearing against the "New Likud" movement.

"We regard the New Likud as a danger to the continued existence of the Likud party," Netanyahu said, "and also as a danger to the State itself. Half a year ago, we saw something unbelievable take place – people who were supposedly from the right-wing received votes from right-wing voters and then transferred them to the left-wing, in order to implement a revolution in government via open fraud.

"Now," he continued, "we are seeing something even more astounding – people who want to do the same from within the Likud party. They want to enter the party in a right-wing guise and get their own people elected to party positions, people who have a left-wing agenda which is totally opposed to everything we stand for. There are no ends that I will not go to in order to prevent this; I will not give up on this movement, one which is the backbone and the



The Likud party issued a response saying that, "The New Likudniks are an extreme left-wing group; they entered the Likud party like a Trojan horse in order to destroy the Likud movement from within. It is our obligation to prevent this from happening in order to ensure the future of the Likud and the future of us all."

future of the State – the future of all of us."

In recent days, Netanyahu submitted a petition to the Likud internal court, demanding that the court immediately convene to remove an order preventing him from ejecting the New Likudniks from the party.

Last Wednesday, the court annulled a decision to cancel Likud membership of the entire cohort of New Likudniks, and ruled that it would only annul the membership of individuals of whom it could be

proven that they were working against the party's interests, or that they were actually supporters of other parties.

The Likud party issued a response saying that, "The New Likudniks are an extreme left-wing group; they entered the Likud party like a Trojan horse in order to destroy the Likud movement from within. It is our obligation to prevent this from happening in order to ensure the future of the Likud and the future of us all."

(ISRAELNATIONALNEWS.COM)

## New Restrictions After Israel Sees 85% Rise in COVID-19 Infections in One Week

Projections indicate Israel will be contending with over 10,000 cases a day within two weeks.

By: Aryeh Savir

The members of Israel's ministerial committee on fighting the coronavirus approved a new series of COVID-19 related restrictions, as the infections numbers in the country skyrocketed in the past week.

Members of the Corona Cabinet approved on Friday further limitations in malls and commercial facilities, including a guideline that stipulates that entry to malls that are bigger than 100 square meters will be subject to the Green Pass, in both open facilities and in malls and enclosed facilities. Employees of such stores will also be subject to the Green Pass.

Food stalls in malls will provide takeaway service only to customers upon presentation of a Green Pass. There will be no seating. Entry to restaurants inside malls will be subject to the presentation of a Green Pass as is currently required in restaurants.

Further guidelines and limitations were also introduced for the school system.

In the past week, a total of 9,020 Israelis tested positive for Corona, meaning an average of about 1,300 a day, and an 85



A health care worker with a COVID-19 rapid antigen test in Lod, Oct. 17, 2021. (Yossi Aloni/Flash90)

percent increase over the daily average of about 700 cases a day in the week before that.

The rate of Corona tests that returned positive over the weekend was 2.07%, the first time since the beginning of October that the positive rate was over 2%. At the same time, the infection coefficient (R) increased to 1.41, indicating the broad spread of the virus.

The Health Ministry updated over the weekend that it identified 591 new Omicron cases, out of a total of 1,118 verified cases in Israel so far, of which 723 were probably infected abroad. There is a "high suspi-

cion" of another 861 Omicron cases.

Professor Eran Segal, a computational biologist at the Weizmann Institute of Science and an expert on COVID-19 in Israel, estimated that with about 440 Omicron cases a day and a documented R of 3.35, Israel will be contending with over 10,000 a day within two weeks.

8,242 Corona patients have died in Israel since the outbreak of the virus about two years, the last on Friday. Since the beginning of the month, 40 Israelis have died of Corona. All the dead under the age of 60 were not vaccinated at all. (JNS.ORG)

## PM Bennett: Israel Plans to Double Amount of Settlers in Golan Heights

By: AP

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Sunday the country intends to double the amount of settlers living in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights with a multimillion-dollar plan meant to further consolidate Israel's hold on the territory it captured from Syria more than five decades ago.

Bennett said the new investment in the region was prompted by the Trump administration's recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the swath of land and by the Biden administration's indication that it will not soon challenge that decision.

"This is our moment. This is the moment of the Golan Heights," Bennett said at a special Cabinet meeting in the Golan Heights. "After long and static years in terms of the scope of settlement, our goal today is to double settlement in the Golan Heights."

Bennett's office said the government would invest some 1 billion shekels (over \$300 million) into developing the Golan, including the establishment of two new settlements as well as investments in tourism, industry, clean energy and technology that would create several thousand jobs.

Entrenching Israeli control over the territory would com-



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, fifth right front row, poses for a photo with members of the government before a weekly cabinet meeting in Kibbutz Mevo Hama, in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021. Bennett said Sunday the country intends to double the amount of settlers living in the Golan Heights with a multimillion-dollar plan meant to further consolidate Israel's hold on the territory it captured from Syria more than five decades ago. (Nir Elias/Pool via AP)

PLICATE any future attempt to forge peace with Syria, which claims the Golan Heights.

Israel captured the Golan Heights in the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed the territory, promoting settlement and agriculture there as well as creating a thriving local tourism industry. The U.S. was the first country to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan, which the rest of the international community regards as Israeli-occupied.

Bennett said the decade-long war in Syria made the idea of

Israeli control of the territory more acceptable to its international allies, adding that the alternative would be much worse.

Israel has long argued that the strategically important area has, for all practical purposes, been fully integrated into Israel since it was captured from Syria—and that control of the strategic plateau is needed as protection from Iran and its allies in Syria.

SEE PM BENNETT: ISRAEL PLANS, PAGE 40

## Chaim Walder, Author of Jewish Children's Books, Found Dead at Son's Grave in Israel

Haredi author accused of sexual misconduct found dead of apparent suicide

Edited by: TJVNews.com

Haredi author and radio personality Chaim Walder was found dead in Petah Tikva Monday afternoon, after apparently taking his own life, according to a report on the Israel National News web site.

The 53-year-old writer and educator, best known for his series of children's books, Children Talk About Themselves, was found dead at his son's grave in Petah Tikva at the Segula Cemetery on Monday afternoon.

INN reported that Walder's apparent suicide comes after a wave of allegations against him of sexual misconduct, including a report by Ha'aretz which cited the claims of 22 alleged victims, including underage boys and girls.

A special rabbinical court summoned Walder earlier this month to appear for a hearing into the matter.

Last month, Haaretz published an expose in which women testified that Walder had sexually abused them when they were teens. In response, the popular Eichlers Judaica bookstore in Brooklyn, New York, announced that it



Chaim Walder in 2011. (CC BY-SA Yoninah/Wikimedia Commons)

would remove all of Walder's books from its shelves, despite the significant financial loss involved, as was reported by INN.

Walder's radio program on Kol Chai Radio was also suspended.

The scurrilous allegations against Walder were made two women who claim that when they were 12 and 15 years old, Walder allegedly engaged in sex with them. In addition to their testimony, a third testimony alleges that a 20 year old woman, who had sought therapy with Walder was raped on a regular basis, according to a previously published JPost report.

The JPost reported that in

the testimony that was shared with Ha'aretz, one of the accusers who went by the name Talia (not her real name) recalled the first time she encountered Walder, more than 20 years ago. The woman claims that Walder said she was very mature and that he admired her appearance.

Speaking to Ha'aretz, Talia said of Walder, "He was very smart and manipulative," Talia told the newspaper. He did it very slowly, so as not to stress me out."

INN reported that Walder's

SEE CHAIM WALDER, AUTHOR OF JEWISH, PAGE 39

# Israel Needs to Fight to Maintain its Start-Up Nation Status – Comptroller Report

Some 45% of Israeli jobs in the labor market are endangered due to mechanization.

By: WIN Staff

Israel needs to fight for maintaining its status as the start-up nation, State Comptroller Matanyahu Englman stated in a Sunday issued report. This is due to a transformation in the future of global workforce, Israeli media reported.

The report was held in conjunction with the E.U., Finland, South Korea, Italy, Bulgaria and northern Macedonia, and addressed the changes expected in the labor market due to accelerated technological development created in recent years which has changed the demand for certain professions.

For Israel to maintain its status as the Start-Up Nation, it must “address the shortage of skilled professionals in the hi-tech industry,” while heavily involving the Education Ministry.

The shortage of academic staff must be addressed, according to the report, in addition to reducing university drop out rates in subjects pertaining to the hi-tech industry.

“This is essential in guaranteeing the next hi-tech generation,” it stated, especially considering Israeli student scores falling short in comparison to



For Israel to maintain its status as the Start-Up Nation, it must “address the shortage of skilled professionals in the hi-tech industry,” while heavily involving the Education Ministry. Photo Credit: Shutterstock.

other OECD countries.

However in contrast, some 50% of people in Israel and South Korea have an academic degree, while only 46% do in Finland, 33% in the E.U. 28% in Bulgaria, 21% in northern Macedonia, and 20% in Italy.

“The education system should also teach the skills students will need as adults in their social, personal, and professional lives in the 21st century.”

Deficiencies in the policy making, planning, and implementation of skills in educational institute curricula were

found.

Moreover, 45% of Israeli jobs in the physical labor market are at risk due to changes in automation, markets and globalization, in comparison to 34% in Finland, 43% in South Korea, 48% in European Union countries on average, and 51% in Italy.

Activities which can be replaced by mechanization, such as computers, artificial intelligence or machines, are expected only decline in number.

SEE ISRAEL NEEDS TO FIGHT TO MAINTAIN, PAGE 40

# UN General Assembly Gives Go-Ahead to Israeli War Crimes Inquiry

The General Assembly has approved an open-ended inquiry into Israel's actions in Israel, Gaza, and Judea and Samaria.

By: WIN Staff

The United Nations General Assembly has approved a motion to set up an open-ended inquiry into war crimes by Israel, the first of its kind by the supranational organization.

In May, Israel harshly criticized the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) after it passed a resolution to launch a Commission of Inquiry against Israel for alleged war crimes, and called for an arms embargo against the Jewish state, following the Israel-Gaza conflict in May.

Twenty-four states, including Bahrain with which Israel had recently signed a peace treaty, supported the motion, nine voted against it, and 14 countries abstained. No European country supported the motion.

The vote was the first time that the UNHRC had voted to establish a permanent fact-finding mission on any UN member state.

On Thursday, the commission came before the UN General Assembly for budgetary approval, and was passed by 125 countries voting in support.

Eight countries were in op-



Smoke rises following an Israeli air strike on Gaza during Operation Guardian of the Walls on May 13, 2021. (AP/Hatem Moussa, File)

position: Israel, the US, Hungary and the Pacific nations of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau and Papua New Guinea. There were also 34 abstentions, including Germany, Australia, Canada and Brazil.

Speaking at the meeting, Israel's representative said the commission was “yet another example of a grossly discriminatory and fraudulent body that this distinguished forum should be working to abolish,” adding that the commission “pre-assumes Israeli violations of international law rather than presuming innocence as is required.”

Israel's UN envoy Gilad Erdan said in a statement: “The UN fell to a new low and approved a budget for a despicable and biased commission that has no right to exist.” He added that the inquiry ignores war crimes by Hamas, including the more than 4,000 rockets fired at Israel in May.

The commission was heavily criticized by Israeli leaders when first announced by the UNHRC in May. Then Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the time: “Once again,

SEE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY GIVES, PAGE 40



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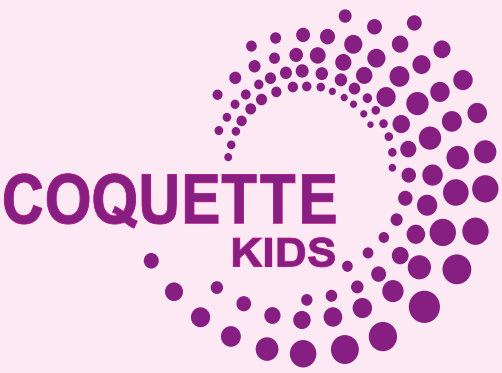


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## Let Mayor Elect Eric Adams Govern NYC as He Sees Fit!

Although he won't be sworn in as New York City's 66th Post Colonial Mayor until January 1, 2022, Eric Adams has already become embroiled in a major controversy, strangely enough, with members of his own political party, who constitute the City Council. We're on his side and pat him on the back for standing up to these "Know-Nothings" who wish to continue the downward moral and economic spiral initiated by his predecessor, the worst mayor in the city's history. He's already poked them in the eye with his promise to create a special NYPD unit that will dedicate itself to confiscating illegal firearms. Kudos to him!

But, that was not the only kick in the rear he's given the radical Leftists who run the city. Last week, two dozen plus incoming City Council members called for Eric to end the solitary confinement punishment at Rikers Island, who just a few days earlier, in response to Mayor deBlasio's dangerously moving detainees out of solitary confinement, told us that he'd

continue to segregate the most violent prisoners from the institution's general population. We applaud his common sense decision to protect the safety of those others incarcerated behind bars. Newly elected Queens Councilwoman Tiffany Caban angrily Tweeted him that, "Solitary confinement is considered by the United Nations human rights organizations and medical and mental health experts to be a form of torture."

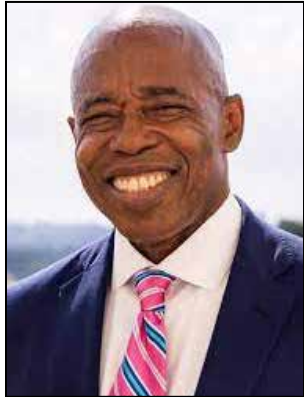
Adams promptly responded to this tear-jerker note with the strong words of a guy who looks like he's ready to turn NYC back into a safe burg. "The one thing that's different from everyone that signed that letter and Eric Adams: I wore a bullet-proof vest for 22 years and protected the people

of this city. And when you do that, then you have the right to question me on safety and public safety matters." He continued, without flinching, "I support punitive segregation. I am not going to be in a city where dangerous people assault innocent people, go to jail and assault more people."

Welcome words of street-smart wisdom.

He appears to be a fearless straight shooter. Earlier this year, Adams politely met with Walter "Hawk" Newsome, who leads the anarchist Black Lives Matter group in the city. Newsome threw the threat of violent outbreaks if Adams reinstated the anti-crime unit. This racist thug overtly stated: "There will be riots. There will be fire and there will be bloodshed. We have people in the city council who can create problems for this administration by shutting it down." The short, to the point response from Adams: "We're not going to surrender to those who are saying, 'We're going to burn down New York.' Not my city!" Words of courage and hope for all of us New Yorkers.

We hope and pray that Mayor-elect Eric Adams, a former NYPD transit cop and official, continues to show such strength and courage in the face of future threatening attacks against him and the city, from the crime supporting elements that seem to be more powerful, fearless and outspoken than ever before. We need and demand a leader who will protect all of his citizens, black, white or whatever. We will have an open door to Mayor Adams. We will support his programs that will bring New Yorkers together, safely and sanely, to make The Big Apple what it once was....the greatest, safest, happiest city on the face of the earth. May G-d help Eric Adams accomplish this miracle. And believe us, he'll need all the help he can get.



We hope and pray that Mayor-elect Eric Adams, a former NYPD street cop and official, continues to show such strength and courage in the face of future threatening attacks against him and the city. Photo Credit: Wikipedia.org

## Kamala Harris is a Growing Problem

Let's get right to the point: The two top elected leaders of this country constitute a clear and present danger to our survival. Throw in for added effect, that they are not only incompetent, inept, artless, they are both totally useless in their positions they hold. In previous rants of frustration, we've covered Sleepy Joe and his obvious failing mental capacity that is most assuredly clear to our mortal enemies now making their moves to threaten our nation's survival. In ordinary situations the Vice President would be looked on as the obvious back-up were it necessary to replace a sitting President for one of a multitude of reasons. But, we're now in a bind. Kamala Harris is probably less competent than her boss and that's scary.

Cackling Kamala would be more suited as a comic-mate to the likes of George, in the Seinfeld series. Her obvious uselessness and lack of concern for her job has even earned the enmity of the President and his handlers, making her persona-non-grata even to the leaders of her own party whose support she would need in the White House. In very recent days, we've all heard rumors that the relationship between her and Joe has been going down the drain. Biden and his behind the scenes handlers were appalled and outraged over her lack of performance and the obvious disarray of her own office. Her key aides are leaving her employ in droves.

Many are eyeing the exits after a handful of staffers called it quits recently. And just last week, her top senior adviser, Symone Sanders,

gave notice she'll leave this week. This follows her communications director Ashley Etienne's departure last month.

One former aide's comments: "People are thrown under the bus from the very top. There are short fuses and it's an abusive environment. It's not a place where people feel supported but a place where people feel treated like sh-t." Since one bad thing leads to another, Kamala's remaining executives are clumsily lobbing bombs accusing Biden's office of not supporting her. She's currently adrift, a sinking ship, on her own, and we cannot forget that she's in line to replace a president sure to need one, ASAP. How can she possibly take the helm with her approval ratings currently at 28% and dropping as you read these words?

Her most stunning failure in office was her total disregard for her role given her by President Biden in March, 2021, to be the Immigration Czar, and to formulate a rational policy on our southern border. She has yet to visit the actual border points, to view first hand the immigration crisis, to see the plight of immigrants, to hear the suggestions of border security agents or to come up with a strategy to solve this growing humanitarian crisis. Rather, she's been seen and video'd in coffee shops and even in a promo for her made by NASA, shot with adoring kid actors paid to gush at her words. She's out of the loop and hopefully will be out of office soon, replaced by a president who himself, needs a total overhaul. We can't make this up. Are we in big trouble, or what??



VP Kamala Harris continues to be a detriment to the current administration in Washington. Photo Credit: AP

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tax Dollars Going Down the Drain

Dear Editor:

Drip, drip, drip watch as your tax dollars go down the drain. The United States Secret Service recently admitted that almost \$100 billion in CARE COVID relief fund benefits have been lost to fraud. One wonders how many more billions have been lost to waste, fraud and abuse out of several trillion dollars Washington spends on thousands of other programs each year. In the rush to get CARE COVID-19 money out the door, it appears that everyone forgot to check and verify the eligibility for recipients of funding. Congress just passed a bill that Presi-

dent signed authorizing Uncle Sam to increase our national debt by another \$2.5 trillion from the present \$29 trillion.

Isn't it about time we spend the same amount of energy to recoup \$100 billion and more of lost funds before borrowing even more? Besides a National Debt Clock, we need to add a National Federal Fraud Clock, It should be placed behind the podiums in the chambers of both the House and Senate as a reminder.

Sincerely,

**Larry Penner  
Great Neck**

### Taking DeBlasio to Task

Dear Editor:

I don't know about you, but I am counting the days to the say good riddance to Comrade DeBlasio. He has all but destroyed the city we love. The crime is off the charts again. People are afraid to go on the subway now that the violent mentally ill have taken over. Gun violence has made New York streets like Dodge City in the 1800's. De-funding one Billion dollars from the NYPD and eliminating the undercover gun squad has demoralized the police. They are retiring in droves and who will want to join the force now? Bail reform has released violent felons back into the streets with a court appearance date which they never keep. De

Blasio leaves with blood on his hands.

His draconian mandates have destroyed many a small business and created hostility and violence between the vaccinated and un-vaccinated. New Yorker's stress levels are at their absolute breaking point. Good riddance Di Blasio, I hope you become known in one way only, "As the worst mayor New York City ever had". God Speed Eric Adams I am praying you can turn things around and help New York become the great city it once was.

Sincerely

**Elissa Maldonado  
Gerritsen Beach  
Brooklyn, NY**

### Against Non-Citizens Voting

Dear Editor,

Departing Mayor DeBlasio should slam the door shut and never return to the city once he leaves office next week. He leaves the shattered remains that once was the glowing city of fun, safety and enjoyment for millions of its citizens and guests. Now it is a dark place of crime, graft, hate and despondency. His final blow, to give nearly a million illegals and non citizens the right to cast their votes for the future of the city was madness. But the useless,

corrupt, ignorant City Council remains to continue the destruction of NYC. Perhaps the people who do vote, who work here, whose kids go to the worthless public schools, deserve what they want. Good luck to them. My family and I saw the light years ago and bailed out. We weren't lucky....we were smart. And I'm chuckling now.

Sincerely

**Arthur Medlinsky  
Massapequa, NY**

### Loves the Jewish Voice!

Dear Editor:

Your paper tells it like it is. I love reading your great columns, your letters to the editor and your "tell it like it is" editorial viewpoints. Your support for Israel may disturb the radical Jewish Left but it's likely they read and spout the crap found in the Forward, NYT and the Federation's weekly. But you guys hit the nail on the head. I particularly enjoy reading the

weekly cover stories written by Fern Sidman. As an experienced journalist, she really presents a highly accurate and nuanced report. Continue serving the community. Thanks for all you do!

Sincerely

**Sanford Bergman  
Brooklyn**

### Concerns About "Build Back Better"

Dear Editor:

What is it with the Democrats' avoiding the logic behind Senator Joe Manchin's concerns about the Build Back Better bill that threatens to bankrupt the nation? Why can't more of them give support to this guy who stands up to the corrupt leaders of his own party? Why their loyalty to the Progressives who want our nation converted to the concept of Communism? 74% of his own constituents in W. Virginia support his bashing of the BBB deal. He

has a 60% approval rating in one of the reddest states. My own Senator, Chuckie Boy Schumer could learn a lesson or two from this guy who hails from what most Democrats refer to as a "dumb-as-dirt state." These hicks from W. Virginia have got it head over heels over the snobs in New York when it comes to common sense.

Sincerely

**Bernie Karp  
Manhattan**

### Are We a Leaderless Nation?

Dear Editor:

How much longer before the nations of Iran, Russia, China and North Korea roll over us and destroy the once great, invulnerable democracy called the United States? Our leader in the White House and his replacement are totally incompetent for all to see. You'd have to be blind or completely out of it not to understand that we are a nation floating without leadership and without the strength of purpose to ward off any attacks on us. Our military is now busy learning about the "white-

ness" of our leaders and not how to defend us. Our kids are being taught to hate their parents for their "whiteness" and privileges that come from their hard work and efforts. We are corroding from within. Rotting away. We have to awaken our leaders at the polls next year to remove them from office. But, by then, it may be too late.

Sincerely

**Arnold Schwartzman  
Queens**

## The Tyranny of the Woke

"Thought police" have cancelled speakers on campus. Students even cancel themselves over fear of arousing the angry mob. And, as is so often the case, the first victims of this particular form of tyranny are the Jews.

By: Sarah N. Stern

I remember my undergraduate days, several decades ago very well. It was a heady, wonderful time when I first discovered the life of the mind. My ideas and opinions were not always popular, but I knew I was able to speak for myself, without fear of being censored or silenced. As long as my arguments were backed up by the evidence, there was an overwhelming atmosphere of mutual respect, and of humanity. I, too, learned to be a better, more empathic listener to the other person's perspective. That sometimes took me out of my own comfort zone, but that's alright. That is what engaging in the free and open exchange of ideas is all about.

Free speech and intellectual excitement go hand-in-hand. This is an integral part of the development of young people who do not simply follow the herd, like intellectual sheep, but who ultimately possess the moral courage to be able to think their own ideas, to feel empowered to stand on their own two, intellectual feet, to evaluate moral stances as informed, open people. This atmosphere creates a true, re-

spectful diversity of opinion, and ultimately, a more humane society.

What is happening today on campuses across the United States is the very antithesis of that. "Thought police" have cancelled speakers on campus who do not align with their points of view. Worse, many students end up cancelling themselves over fear of arousing the angry mob — either in the classroom, when they experience biased professors and/or peers, or on the campus or quad.

And, as is so often the case, the first victims of this particular form of tyranny are the Jews. According to a poll conducted in the spring of 2021 by The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights under Law, two-thirds of students had experienced some form of anti-Semitism over a 120-day period. (The poll was taken before May's Israel-Hamas conflict). More than one-quarter of students reported feeling unsafe as Jews on their campus or in virtual campus settings. Half of Jewish students felt it was necessary to hide their Jewish identities, and more than half avoided expressing their true beliefs about Israel.

The modern state of Israel

has legitimately come into existence through the consent of the international community of nations through the Balfour Declaration of 1917, which was



An anti-Israel protest on a college campus. Photo Credit: aclu.org

incorporated into the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine in 1922, and the United Nations Partition Plan of 1947. However, its rebirth has been forged in constant warfare. There have been multiple offers to the Palestinians for their own independent state, made in all of these aforementioned treaties, and again at the Khartoum Conference in the Sudan, shortly after the 1967 war.

Then, the offer was made to return all of the territories cap-

tured in that defensive war for peace, and it was met with the famous three "no's": No peace. No recognition. No end of conflict. And on May 25, 2000, at Camp David, when Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered the Palestinians 97 percent of the West Bank, shared sovereignty of Jerusalem and a right of return of thousands of ref-

preferred to keep their people in squalor, nurturing generation after generation of their children on unrealistic expectations of controlling all of Israel, and going back to control of Jaffa and their grandparents' orchards and vineyards in Haifa, within the Green Line.

As if by some sorcerer's incantation these truths have been all-but vanished from public consciousness, and have not been taught to our children. For this, we must look internally as parents and educators. However, the failure of Arab and Palestinian leadership should ultimately be blamed, by always holding out for maximalist offers, rather than making the most of good offers.

The democratic state of Israel has now become the most reviled object of calumny on most American college campuses. In some sort of Kafkaesque fashion, the Jewish state has become the bête noire by the self-appointed moralists of the world. Not China, with its horrendous "re-education camps" for the Uyghurs; not Iran, with its rampant execution of untold numbers of dissidents, minorities and gays; not North Korea, where hundreds of thousands of people are locked up in concentration camps.

Today, we are left with a situation where campuses throughout the country are proliferated by swastikas and where the freedom of speech and of assembly of students

with a pro-Israel perspective are suppressed. Take, for example, what recently happened recently at Duke University when the Students Supporting Israel group was the one student organization denied recognition by its student government. Its attempts to educate other student groups about what words like "colonization" actually mean were drowned out by the loud, cacophonous voices of the woke.

A great deal of the problem lies in academia, particularly in those that teach Middle East Studies. In a recent meeting, the Middle East Studies Association, 93 percent of the 444 members present voted to advance a referendum to support BDS. We know that ever since the Saidian revolution of the 1970s, much of what has been passing for Middle East scholarship has deteriorated into one-sided paltry propaganda. In most universities, it is impossible to set foot into the door of a classroom without buying into the premise that Israel is a highly immoral country.

Today, the "woke" conformists have a visceral hatred for Israel, the state of the Jews. The boundaries between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism are virtually indistinguishable.

This is to the detriment, not just to the Jews, but to our civ-

SEE THE TYRANNY OF THE WOKE, PAGE 40

## Once Again, the UN Treats Israel Like the Most Evil Country on Earth

What did the world's only Jewish state do this time to deserve such a staggering level of discrimination? It decided to defend itself.

By: David Suissa

While tens of millions of poor souls are dying and starving under brutal regimes in places like Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Congo and Somalia, among others, the United Nations decided last Thursday that only one country merits an open-ended investigation.

If you haven't been living on Mars the past few decades, you've already guessed the name of that country—Israel—the recipient of more U.N. condemnations than all other countries combined.

So, what did the world's only Jewish state do this time to deserve such a staggering level of discrimination from a world body that claims to champion justice, fairness and human rights?

Oh, the usual. Last May, Israel decided it didn't want to see thousands of its citizens—Jews and non-Jews alike—killed by Hamas rockets. As Hamas was launching 4,000 rockets at Israeli civilians, Israel defended itself with everything it had,

including the Iron Dome, civilian bomb shelters and targeted airstrikes.

Israel's defense of its people triggered Jew-haters everywhere, including at the U.N.'s Human Rights Council, the world's anti-Israel headquarters, which voted to investigate Israel for possible "war crimes."

Thursday's vote in the General Assembly makes this investigation official and open-ended. The resolution, which Israel's U.N. envoy Gilad Erdan called "despicable and biased," called for the creation of a permanent "Commission of Inquiry" to monitor and report on rights violations in Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

True to form, this is the first such commission of inquiry with an "ongoing" mandate, unwrapped exclusively for the Jewish state as a holiday present.

The irony of ironies is that on the same day the United Nations accentuated its maniacal singling-out of Israel, a poll came out showing that Palestinians blame their own leaders for their misery. The Palestinian Atlas Center for Studies and Research found that 45 percent

of respondents hold the Palestinian Authority responsible for the perennial crises in the Gaza Strip, with 25 percent saying they hold Hamas responsible. Only 15 percent of Palestinians



The United Nations has evolved into a cesspool of vehement hatred for Israel; the one and only Jewish state. Photo Credit: Wikipedia.org

blamed Israel.

Maybe, after all these years, more and more Palestinians are realizing that their leaders have used hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign aid not to build schools and hospitals but tunnels and bomb factories.

Maybe they've stopped ignor-

ing that Hamas terrorists hide behind women and children when they launch rockets at Israel so that Israel will be blamed for any Palestinian casualties.

Maybe they read somewhere that the Israeli army has the lowest wartime civilian casualty ratio of any army in the world.

None of that mattered, of course, to the United Nations, which understands the number one rule of international diplomacy: No one ever gets punished for discriminating against Israel. Quite the contrary—targeting Israel may even get you promoted.

There's a special irony in the United Nations targeting a country already marinating in internal criticism and dissent thanks to its free press. The way the United Nations treats Israel significantly worse than the most murderous and evil regimes on earth is itself a crime. Not only does this gross singling-out undermine the U.N.'s credibility, it adds fuel to Jew-hatred everywhere.

Or maybe they've been see-

ing news reports of their Arab brethren from the Gulf States and Morocco saying the exact opposite to what they've been hearing for years about Israel from their leaders—instead of being a demonic state, Israel is actually a vibrant and productive nation that can benefit all the people of the region.

There's a special irony in the United Nations targeting a country already marinating in internal criticism and dissent thanks to its free press. The way the United Nations treats Israel significantly worse than the most murderous and evil regimes on earth is itself a crime. Not only does this gross singling-out undermine the U.N.'s credibility, it adds fuel to Jew-hatred everywhere.

In the spirit of looking for silver linings, we can hope that time will be on Israel's side, if only because facts on the ground are on its side. Eventually, many of the countries that automatically vote against Isra-

**The irony of ironies is that on the same day the United Nations accentuated its maniacal singling-out of Israel, a poll came out showing that Palestinians blame their own leaders for their misery.**

el may realize that it is in their best interest to be friendly with Israel. The Abraham Accords are Exhibit "A."

I wonder if those countries read another announcement that came out on Thursday: A phase two trial showed that an Israeli drug prevents 100 percent of COVID patients from deteriorating. Imagine that. The country most maligned at the United Nations is doing all it can to save lives in the countries that keep voting against it.

Maybe we should set up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the United Nations.

(JNS.ORG)

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# It's Time to Abolish the Teachers Unions

A disaster for students and good teachers alike

By: Larry Sand

"All Government employees should realize that the process of collective bargaining, as usually understood, cannot be transplanted into the public service. It has its distinct and insurmountable limitations when applied to public personnel management."

The above caveat about government unions – usually known by the kinder and gentler “public employee unions” – was not issued by the Koch Brothers or Donald Trump. The statement was made by none other than progressive icon Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Additionally, George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO for 24 years, once stated, “It is impossible to bargain collectively with the government.” Both men understood that the very nature of government makes it wrong for its leaders to enter into negotiations with any union. When government unions negotiate, they often sit across the table from people they helped put in office with generous campaign contributions. And when these unions go on strike, they walk out on the taxpayer.

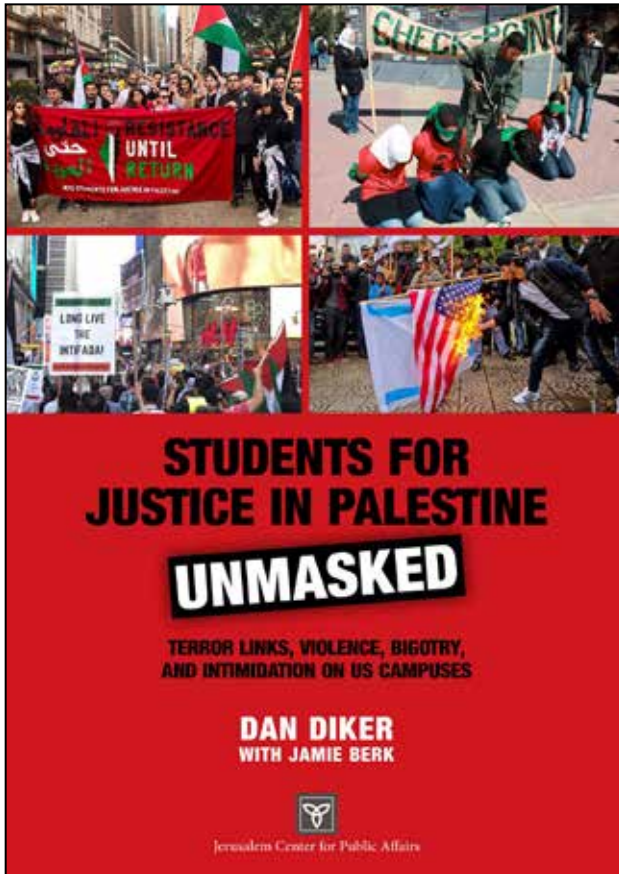
In the private sector, if a business is forced to pay its workers more money, those costs are passed on to the consumer. If the cost of a product is raised too high, the purchaser can choose

to go elsewhere. Most unions get this and realize they can't bargain for excessive salaries and perks. But some unions push things too far and ultimately price their members out of a job. An example of the latter is the United Auto Workers, whose exorbitant demands drove car buyers to Japanese models and automakers to produce cars elsewhere, thus sending Detroit down the road to ruin.

But the government unions are always a nightmare for consumers, as they can't shop elsewhere for services provided by the state, because the government has a monopoly on them. When union negotiators and elected officials agree on exorbitant pay packages and protections for cops, prison guards, firemen and teachers, what can the public do? Call a different fire department if their house is burning down?

There is an exception here with schools, but unless there is a parental choice system in place, where public tax money follows the child, only the well-to-do really have a choice. In exercising that option, they must pay twice, however – in state and local taxes which go to their local public school and tuition payments for the private one.

It's worth noting that many government union leaders fully understand the conflict of interest. In 1975, Victor Gotbaum, leader of District Council 37 of



A cogent argument for abolishing teachers unions by a former teacher

the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) in New York City, bragged, “We have the ability, in a sense, to elect our own boss.” Forty-five years later, in 2020, Los Angeles teacher union boss Alex Caputo-Pearl admitted, “We have a unique power – we elect

our bosses. It would be difficult to think of workers anywhere else who elect their bosses. We do. We must take advantage of it.”

While all government unions do damage, none is more noxious than the teachers unions because their collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) have been a disaster for students and good teachers alike. The unions don't treat teachers as professionals, but rather as interchangeable widgets, all of whom are of equal value and competence. To differentiate between effective and ineffective educators as a result of what their students actually learn would necessitate doing away with their fossilized, industrial-style work rules like one-size-fits-all salary scales, not to mention tenure, contractually known as “permanence” and seniority – perennial union mainstays. Many studies have borne out the harm of CBAs to America's children.

“The Long-run Effects of Teacher Collective Bargaining,” a 2018 study by researchers Michael Lovenheim and Alexander Willen, found that, among men, exposure to a duty-to-bargain law in the first 10 years after passage depresses students' future annual earnings by \$2,134 (3.93 percent), decreases weekly hours worked by 0.42, and reduces employment and labor force participation.

The Lovenheim-Willen study was not the first to detail CBAs' harm to students. In 2007, Stanford professor Terry Moe reported that collective bargaining appears to have a strongly negative impact in larger school districts.

Caroline Hoxby, also a professor at Stanford, made a three-minute video in 2009 in which she explains in plain language how CBAs stifle any management flexibility in determining the best slot for a teacher at a given school, as well as denying schools the opportunity to get rid of underperformers.

Good teachers also are hurt by CBAs. “Wage compression”

occurs when the salaries of lower paid teachers are raised above the market rate, with the increase offset by reducing the pay of the most productive ones. “Why strive to become better if I am not going to be compensated for it?” is the attitude of many. Mike Petrilli of the Fordham Institute takes it one step further, claiming CBAs hurt the bottom line of all teachers. According to Petrilli, “Teachers in non-collective bargaining districts actually earn more than their union-protected peers – \$64,500 on average versus \$57,500.” Petrilli's study was from 2011, and research from Michael Lovenheim in 2009 and Andrew Coulson in 2010 bore similar results. Also, University of California San Diego professor Augustina Pagalayan reported in 2018 that CBAs do not improve teacher pay.

Barbara Biasi, an assistant Professor of Economics at the Yale School of Management, has studied teacher salaries. She focused on Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's Act 10 in 2011, which all but eliminated collective bargaining for teachers and created a marketplace where school districts could compete for better educators by paying valued teachers more. Among Biasi's findings is that there is a “34 percent increase in the quality of teachers moving from salary-schedule to individual-salary districts, and a 17 percent decrease in the quality of teachers exiting individual-salary districts.” In fact, about half of Wisconsin's school districts abandoned their lock-step salary schedules and began to pay teachers for performance, for having advanced math and science skills, taking difficult assignments, etc.

In these trying times, the teachers unions have been throwing their considerable power around with great abandon. Several studies have shown that Covid-related school shutdowns occurred more frequently in states and municipalities with strong teachers unions. In fact, the American Federation of Teachers, the nation's second largest teachers union, lobbied the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on – and even proposed language for – the agency's school-reopening guidance released in February. Quite obviously the lobbying paid off as “in at least two instances, language ‘suggestions’ offered by the union were adopted nearly verbatim into the final text of the CDC document.”

These unions have often used the pandemic to leverage benefits as well. The California Teachers Association, for example, issued a “bargaining advisory” in May of 2020, in which it states, “When exercising a ‘get for the give’ approach to bargaining concessions, locals should consider strengthening or implementing consultation procedures language in the CBA. The union added, “Now is the time to secure (contract) language improvements that we have wanted for some time.”

The teachers unions have also been at the forefront of the move to establish the noxious Critical Race Theory in our k-12 schools. At its latest yearly convention in

July, the National Education Association New Business Items (NBI) – proposed projects and actions from the delegates for the union to pursue during the coming year – frequently pushed CRT.

For example, NBI A was adopted, which, among other things has NEA “supporting and leading campaigns that result in increasing the implementation of culturally responsive education, critical race theory, and ethnic (Native people, Asian, Black, Latin(o/a/x), Middle Eastern, North African, and Pacific Islander) Studies curriculum in pre- K-12 and higher education.”

NBI 39 continued the CRT theme and has the union joining forces with two Marxist groups – Black Lives Matter at School and the Zinn Education Project – to push their agenda, which includes providing a study that “critiques empire, white supremacy, anti-Blackness, anti-Indigeneity, racism, patriarchy, cisheteropatriarchy, capitalism, ableism, anthropocentrism, and other forms of power and oppression at the intersections of our society.”

To support its CRT work, NEA now offers a “Confronting White Nationalism in Schools” toolkit.

Immediately following NEA's annual meeting, the American Federation of Teachers held an online conference at which president Randi Weingarten described a “new culture campaign” that some lawmakers (and Fox News) are using to distort history, limit learning and stoke fears about our public schools.”

She added, “Let's be clear: critical race theory is not taught in elementary schools or high schools. It's a method of examination taught in law school and college that helps analyze whether systemic racism exists—and, in particular, whether it has an effect on law and public policy.”

But if Weingarten really believed that there is no CRT in k-12, why would she have Ibram X. Kendi, probably the most vocal and aggressive CRT proponent in the country, speak at the conference? His talk was touted as, “Hear from Dr. Ibram X. Kendi in this free-ranging discussion with student activists and AFT members on his scholarship and on developing anti-racist mindsets and actions inside and outside classrooms.”

Perhaps the poster boy/patron saint for teachers unions is Bob Chanin, 41-year general counsel for NEA. At the union's yearly meeting in 2009, Chanin gave a legendary talk announcing his retirement, and explained why NEA and its affiliates are such effective advocates. “Despite what some among us would like to believe, it is not because of our creative ideas. It is not because of the merit of our positions. It is not because we care about children. And it is not because we have a vision of a “great public school for every child.” NEA and its affiliates are effective advocates because we have power...”

Chanin is correct, and it is a power they never should have been given, and it should now be taken away. Yes, it's time to abolish

# 8 Reasons China Should Definitely Not Host the Winter Olympics

By: Frances Martel

As the year comes to a close, the Chinese government, broadcaster NBC, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) have begun ramping up promotion for the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics – held under a regime currently committing genocide and actively persecuting athletes and journalists.

For over a year, human rights organizations and the victims of the Chinese Communist Party have urged the world not to honor China's abusive behavior and instead consider boycotting the event. Not a single country has done so at press time, leading to gloating statements in Chinese government propaganda outlets about how participating in what activists have dubbed the "Genocide Olympics" is now the "mainstream" position of the world.

With about a month to go before the Games, here are seven

reasons – some obvious to even casual news followers, some less so – the IOC should consider shutting the whole thing down.

land has obviously been drawn open," the Chinese government propaganda outlet Global Times declared in October. "Now, we will like to warn the DPP authorities and their supporters: do not continue to play with fire. They should see that the Chinese mainland's preparation to use force against Taiwan secessionist forces is much stronger than ever before."

### No Safety Guarantees

Neither the IOC nor NBC, which has broadcast rights for the Olympics in America, have properly explained how journalists in Beijing to cover the Olympics will be safe from persecution. China is the world's worst jailer of journalists according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), an international NGO. In a report published this month, Reporters Without Borders accused China of an "unprecedented campaign of repression ... against journalism and the right to information worldwide," explicitly including foreign journalists, not just Chinese citizens. Among the biggest concerns the report highlighted is forced indoctrination under "Xi Jinping Thought" to receive press cards and the blacklisting of foreign journalists who dare question any regime policy. The Olympics necessitate a large influx of foreign journalists into the country. Why endanger them by sending them to the world's biggest repressor of journalism?

### China Abuses and Represses Athletes for Taiwanese Participants

The 2022 Beijing Olympics will occur under the shadow of one of the most egregious abuses of a high-profile athlete ongoing today: the bizarre story of Peng Shuai, a Chinese tennis champion with multiple Wimbledon doubles trophies to her name who accused the head of China's Olympic Committee of raping her. Peng wrote a long post on Weibo, a Chinese government-controlled social media outlet accusing high-ranking Chinese Communist Party official Zhang Gaoli of forcing her to have sex with him. The post rapidly disappeared from the site. Peng followed, vanishing from the public eye until Chinese state propaganda outlets began publishing alleged communications with her in which she denied making the accusations and claimed reporters documenting the story were doing her a disservice. The Global Times went as far as to claim that fellow tennis players elevating her story, and not the regime keeping her quiet, were violating her right to free speech. Some have argued that the Uyghur genocide and other human rights atrocities China is conducting have nothing to do with the Olympics. It is hard to do the same about the abuse and persecution of an actual Olympian.

China refuses to acknowledge that the nation of Taiwan is sovereign, claiming it instead, falsely, as a rogue province. But Taiwan is an IOC member and its athletes compete in the Olympics as part of a team that, thanks to Chinese bullying, is known as "Chinese Taipei." Like every other country on earth, Taiwan has publicly stated it would not consider boycotting the Olympics. There is no guarantee, however, that its athletes or officials attending would not be arrested, as China considers individuals who acknowledge Taiwan's nationhood dangerous "secessionists" and routinely threatens violence against them. Taiwanese officials have stated that they would consider a "diplomatic" boycott – not sending politicians to the event, which would not be a boycott as politicians do not play in the Olympics – but have not answered how sending their officials at all would not endanger them given China's belligerence towards Taiwan's government. "Anyone who attempts to split any region from China will perish, with their bodies smashed and bones ground to powder," dictator Xi Jinping declared in 2019. "The curtain of preparations for a comprehensive military struggle by the Chinese main-

stream" position of the world.

With about a month to go before the Games, here are seven



The upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics will be held under a regime currently committing genocide and actively persecuting athletes and journalists. (AP Photo/Ashwini Bhatia)

reasons – some obvious to even casual news followers, some less so – the IOC should consider shutting the whole thing down.

### China Is Committing One of History's Largest Genocides – Right Now!

The most often cited reason to boycott, relocate, or cancel the Games is also the most gruesome: the dictatorship of Xi Jinping is currently engaging in a campaign to erase several ethnic minorities in western China, most prominently the Muslim-majority Uyghur people. Boycotts to oppose human rights abuses have a long history and, in the Olympics, the closest analog is the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics, hosted by Nazi Germany. Like the Beijing Olympics, calls for boycotting the Nazi Olympics largely failed.

The Communist Party genocide plan includes the use of hundreds of concentration camps to trap, indoctrinate, sterilize, torture, rape, enslave, and kill Uyghurs, as well as other Muslims belonging to Kazakh and Kyrgyz populations. The administrations of both Presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden agreed to formally identify the elimination of the native people of East Turkistan a genocide, one of the few things the governments have agreed on.

In early December, the Uyghur Tribunal, an independent institution established to explore geno-

cide claims against China, concluded that China was committing genocide beyond a reasonable doubt. Among the verified abuses the Tribunal documented were: "pulling off fingernails; beating with sticks; detaining in 'tiger chairs' where feet and hands were locked in position for hours or days without break; confined in containers up to the neck in cold water; and detained in cages so small that standing or lying was impossible."

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## NEW YORK

### New Yorkers Line Up For Hard-To-Get Free COVID Test Kits, More Giveaways Coming Friday

Thousands of New Yorkers lined up at sites in each borough, hoping to score one of the coveted at-home COVID-19 test kits the city distributed ahead of the holidays. Five pop-up locations opened Thursday, and another five are scheduled to open Friday morning.

Vince Mola, a Lower East Side resident, cackled with happiness after receiving a free kit at a site on Columbia Street.

"It's glee. It's relief and astonishment," Mola said. "I feel like I'm in the Soviet Union in the 1970s. These are our new bread lines ... There is something terribly wrong in the richest country in the world when this is like our Christmas present."

The five pop-up sites had distributed the allotted 10,000 kits by mid-morning, according to Adam Shrier, a spokesperson for the city hospital's Test and Trace Corps. Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted the city would be giving away another 10,000 at five new locations on Friday morning: Bronx: Bryan Park, Corner of E Fordham Rd and E Kingsbridge Rd, 10458 Brooklyn: Flatbush, Corner of Church Ave and Flatbush Ave, 11226 Manhattan: Corner of West 125th St and Malcolm X Blvd, 10027 Queens: Woodhaven, Jamaica Ave and 92nd Street, 11421 Staten Island: SI Ferry, 1 Bay St, 10301

### Virus surges in New York City's homeless shelters

Covid-19 is surging in New York City's homeless shelters, prompting some to call on the city's mayor to move people to hotels to keep the fast-spreading Omicron variant from overwhelming crowded shelters.

On Thursday, the city reported that there had been 187 new cases in the past week among the 46,000 residents of the main shelter system, more than double the 82 the week before and more than quintuple the 36 cases reported for the last week of November, NY Times

The city did not say how many of those 187 cases were in the barrackslike "congregate" shelters that house 12,000 people who often sleep upward of 20 to a room.

But the operator of one such shelter said on Thursday that in recent days, 14 out of 200 residents, or 7 percent, had tested positive and that most residents had not been tested at all in the last two weeks. At least four workers at that shelter, out of about 40, had also tested positive, said the operator, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the city forbids shelters to talk to reporters

without clearance.

### Upstate Man Is Fatally Shot by State Trooper

A New York State Police trooper shot and killed a young man in the small upstate village of Unadilla on Wednesday night after the man confronted the officer with a knife, the police said.

Mark A. Beilby, 24, had repeatedly refused to drop the knife and had "advanced at the trooper," whom authorities did not identify, the State Police said. The trooper, responding to a 911 call, had entered Mr. Beilby's home in response to reports of a domestic dispute. After the trooper shot him, Mr. Beilby was transported to two separate medical centers but died.

On Thursday, Attorney General Letitia James's office said it would investigate the shooting, as required by law in cases of officer-involved killings, NY Times reported

In a news conference on Thursday, Major Jeffrey VanAuken of State Police Troop C said that Mr. Beilby had been shot in his apartment after confronting the trooper, who was not injured.

### New York state reports over 44,000 positive COVID-19 cases amid winter surge



People line up for COVID-19 testing Dec. 23, 2021, in Queens in New York City. AP Photo/Frank Franklin II.

New York state has once again set a record for new daily COVID-19 cases, now passing the 40,000 mark as the omicron variant spreads.

The state reported 44,431 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, Gov. Kathy Hochul's office announced Friday. The previous record, set on Thursday, was 38,835, which was substantially higher than the previous record of 28,942 that was set Wednesday, NY State of Politics reported

Across the state, 148 people per 100,000 have tested positive for the virus on a seven-day average, according to state data, up from 116 two days earlier.

In New York City, 204 residents out of every 100,000 people tested positive Thursday, up from the seven-day average of 176 a day earlier. In upstate New York, the Southern Tier had the highest figure at 91 cases per 100,000 people, down from 99 on Wednesday.

The state's seven-day average positivity rate is now 10.2 percent. New York's City's rate is the same, according to the state. Across the state, 359,191 test results were re-

ported in the last 24 hours.

There are currently 4,744 New Yorkers in the hospital, up from 4,534 on Wednesday, but the state's hospitalization rate has not increased at a rate commensurate with the surge in positive cases.

### Retroactive pension restored for ex-BPD officer Cariol Horne



Cariol Horne, during Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, and earlier as a Buffalo Police officer.

A Buffalo police officer who was fired for trying to stop another officer from using a chokehold on a handcuffed suspect will get retroactive retirement benefits from as far back as 2010, under a new law signed by Gov. Kathy Hochul Wednesday.

The measure gives Cariol Horne her full retirement, with service in the state pension system now pegged to the date of her termination in 2010.

Horne was a 19-year veteran and a year away from collecting her pension when she faced departmental charges after pulling fellow Officer Gregory Kwiatkowski's arm from around the neck of domestic violence suspect Neal Mack in November 2006.

She was fired in 2008 after an arbitration process determined she had put the lives of the officers at the scene in danger. The firing was previously upheld by the same court that eventually overturned it.

"New York owes Cariol Horne a debt of gratitude for her service to the Buffalo community and for her bravery in a moment of crisis," Hochul said in a prepared statement.

### New York correction officers' union calls for changes to visitation rules as COVID-19 surges

The labor union that represents correction officers in New York in a letter released Wednesday called on state prison officials to either temporarily suspend visitations or put more stringent rules in place amid the surge of COVID-19 cases over the last several days in New York.

Among the proposals from the union: requiring visitors and vendors to show either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test.

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Wednesday announced more than 28,000 people in the state had tested positive for the virus in the last day, a new record daily total after several days in a row of more than 20,000 positive test results each day.

Officials are watching to see if the more conta-

gious omicron variant of COVID-19 will result in a similar uptick in hospitalizations. Preliminary data suggests the variant is more mild, especially for those who have been vaccinated and received booster shots.

Prisons, like any congregate setting, have seen the virus spread quickly during the nearly two years of the pandemic.

More than 7,000 members of the New York State Correctional Officers PBA have tested positive for the virus since the start of the pandemic, as have 7,995 incarcerated people.

"Since the onset of this pandemic, the members of NYSCOPBA have been unable to 'work remotely' to protect their health and well-being, instead being required to work inside prison facilities, exposing themselves to contracting the virus and bringing it home to their loved ones," said Michael Powers, the union's president. "In that time, nearly 8,000 members have contracted COVID and despite the Department's vaccine-or-test mandates implemented on staff, these facilities continue to be breeding grounds for COVID outbreaks as the mandates do not apply to everyone who enters these buildings."

### Special Education Tuition Hearings Shift to NYC Trials Agency in Push to Tackle Case Backlog



The city's Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings in Downtown Brooklyn. Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

The de Blasio administration is transferring oversight of a backlogged special education complaint system — where filings typically take months or years to resolve — from the education department to a city entity that operates administrative trials.

The shift was codified earlier this month in a memorandum of understanding between the city and state education departments and the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) that gives the city office two years to clear the case backlog, The City reported.

OATH's court-like system holds trials on alleged violations in a range of areas, including conflicts of interest rules, campaign finance regulations and local laws, such as the right to paid sick leave from work.

The move signals the apparent end of Mayor Bill de Blasio's more than seven-year bid to reform the complaint system for families of special education students, just as

he's about to leave City Hall.

The filings are typically complaints by parents that their students aren't getting required services, or requests by parents to make the city pay for private school tuition when the public schools can't adequately serve their children.

The system saw about 5,000 due process filings annually when de Blasio first announced attempts at reform in June 2014. It now records more than twice that number per year — and is currently overrun with a backlog of more than 16,000 open cases, education officials confirmed earlier this month.

### Rep. Suozzi: Hochul failed to create holiday plan for COVID-19 surge

Rep. Suozzi: Hochul failed to create holiday plan for COVID-19 surge

U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, who is running for governor, took another jab at Gov. Kathy Hochul's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York, saying in a statement Thursday that she "failed to create or implement a comprehensive Holiday Plan and now we are paying the price."

The Long Island congressman said several weeks ago that he wanted a comprehensive holiday plan for the state that emphasized boosters, targeted zones, testing, travel advisory and a contingency plan, NY State of Politics reported.

He said he met with Hochul in Washington on Dec. 1 and said she told him "we have COVID covered."

New York has seen a sharp increase in new COVID-19 cases in the last week, reaching a pandemic-high on Wednesday with nearly 29,000 new cases.

"I believe with better planning and preparation, we could have confronted this crisis head on, instead of the piecemeal approach we continue to receive from the Governor's office," Suozzi said in his statement Thursday. "The bottom line is, NY's interim Governor lacks the executive experience to manage this crisis and her nearly exclusive focus on politicking and fundraising over the past 100 days has cost us dearly."

### Crunching the COVID-19 Numbers: Omicron setting new infection records every day in NYC, but hospitalizations remain relatively low

New York City has entered uncharted territory in the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to the fast-spreading Omicron variant, with more than 10,000 people a day, on average, testing positive for the virus, AM-NY reported.

Worse, the latest city Health Department data indicates that 126 neighborhoods across the Five Boroughs have a 7-day COVID-19 positivity rate of

10% or higher between Dec. 14-20. Approximately 40 communities reported 500 or more new COVID-19 cases during that period, and four areas achieved 1,000 or more new infections.

COVID-19 is spreading across New York City at a faster rate than at any other point during the pandemic, including the deadly first wave between March-April 2020 that brought the city to a virtual standstill.

Yet the current situation is not nearly as grave as it was then.

Hospitalizations and deaths, while trending upward, are holding steadily lower, according to the latest data from the city's Health Department. Omicron is causing numerous breakthrough infections among vaccinated New Yorkers, but the vast majority of these cases are proving to be mild because of the vaccines they previously received.

### NYCHA Reaches Deal to Monitor Mold Mess at Privately Run Buildings



South Williamsburg NYCHA residents protest work being done on the building through new private management, Jan. 11, 2020. Ben Fractenberg/THE CITY

The city Housing Authority announced a groundbreaking new plan Thursday to aggressively monitor public housing apartments once they're placed into private management to ensure that tenants aren't plagued by toxic mold.

The new agreement is part of court-monitored oversight of NYCHA's persistent mold problems and comes after multiple reports that private sector managers and contractors weren't properly cleaning up potentially dangerous problems such as mold and lead paint.

"This agreement is a further step to ensuring NYCHA and its partners operate and manage all properties in a way that provides safe and quality housing to all of our residents," said NYCHA Chair and CEO Gregory Russ.

NYCHA reached the agreement with Metro Industrial Areas Foundation, the nonprofit coalition of community and faith-based organizations that sued in 2013 over mold repair failures and got court oversight installed. It now goes to Manhattan federal judge Loretta Preska for review.

The Rev. Getulio Cruz Jr., a leader in Metro-IAF, said the new plan "strikes a critical balance, which, if approved, will be a real benefit to tenants."



## NATIONAL

### Hundreds More Flights Canceled Because Of Staff Shortages



Travelers walk through Terminal A at Orlando International Airport on Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25, 2021. (Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel via AP)

(AP) Airlines canceled hundreds more flights Sunday, citing staffing problems tied to COVID-19, as the nation's travel woes extended beyond Christmas, with no clear indication when normal schedules would resume.

More than 700 flights entering, leaving or flying within the U.S. were called off, according to the flight-tracking website FlightAware. That figure was down from nearly 1,000 on Saturday. More than 50 flights were already canceled for Monday.

Delta, United and JetBlue have blamed the omicron variant of the coronavirus for staffing shortages that forced cancellations.

"This was unexpected," United spokesperson Maddie King said of omicron's impact on staffing.

Globally, airlines scrapped about 2,200 flights as of Sunday morning, down from more than 2,800 from the day before, FlightAware's data showed. The site does not say why flights are canceled.

JetBlue scrapped 10% of its flights Sunday, Delta canceled 5% and United canceled 4%, according to FlightAware. The three airlines canceled more than 10% of their scheduled flights on Saturday.

American Airlines spokesperson Derek Walls said the Christmas cancellations stemmed from virus-related sick calls.

In other pandemic developments, the nation's second Christmas in the shadow of COVID-19 sharply lifted holiday sales, which rose at the fastest pace in 17 years, even as shoppers grappled with higher prices, product shortages and the omicron variant in the last few weeks of the season, according to one spending measure.

### Hundreds Of Parakeets Dropped Off At Michigan Animal Shelter

(AP) — An animal shelter in Michigan has been inundated with hundreds of parakeets. The Detroit Animal Welfare Group in Romeo said in a Facebook post that the small, colorful birds were dropped off Thursday night, The Detroit News reported.

"We were in shock also but could not turn them away as they were all crammed in seven cages and smothering

each other and needed immediate help," the shelter said in the post.

The group's director, Kelley LeBonty, told the Detroit Free Press that the son of an animal hoarder had called to say he was coming to surrender 60 to 80 parakeets from his father's house. But he showed up Thursday with 497 parakeets in his truck. "His son said that he just wanted to breed a few of them, and it got out of control," LeBonty said. "The problem is birds breed easily. And then you just have more babies and more babies and more babies if you don't control the situation."

Shelter officials said they reached out to bird rescue organizations for help. Temporary housing for the parakeets was found and food was donated for the birds.

### Judge Upholds Ruling Against NYT Over Project Veritas Memos



A sign for The New York Times hangs above the entrance to its building May 6, 2021, in New York. A New York judge has upheld an order preventing the Times from publishing documents between conservative group Project Veritas and its lawyer and ruled that the newspaper must immediately relinquish confidential legal memos it obtained. The decision Thursday, Dec. 23, by State Supreme Court Justice Charles D. Wood in Westchester County, released Friday, comes in a defamation lawsuit Project Veritas filed against the Times in 2020. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

(AP) — A New York judge has upheld an order preventing The New York Times from publishing documents between conservative group Project Veritas and its lawyer and ruled that the newspaper must immediately relinquish confidential legal memos it obtained.

The decision Thursday by State Supreme Court Justice Charles D. Wood in Westchester County, released Friday, comes in a defamation lawsuit Project Veritas filed against the Times in 2020.

Months after the lawsuit was filed, the newspaper reported that the U.S. Justice Department was investigating Project Veritas in connection with the theft of a diary belonging to Ashley Biden, the president's daughter. In that story, the Times quoted the memos, leading Project Veritas to accuse the newspaper of violating attorney-client privilege.

Wood upheld his earlier order preventing the Times from further publishing the memos, and also ruled that the newspaper must turn over physical copies of the documents and destroy electronic versions.

### Antisemitic Children's Book Erases Israel From Map, Ignores Israeli Women

(VINnews) — The publisher of a children's book is facing intense backlash, after publishing a map of the Middle East that excludes Israel. One Amazon reviewer called the book "shameful," while another said it promotes "ethnic cleansing of Jews."

The book, written for children aged 9-13, entitled "Amazing Women of the Middle East" by Wafa Tarnowska, contains a vivid map of the Middle East, however Israel is nowhere to be found. The country is replaced by "Palestine," despite all the surrounding countries being labeled accurately.

In addition, the book does not mention a single "amazing woman of the Middle East" who comes from Israel.

In the U.S., the book is published by Crocodile Books, part of Interlink Publishing, and distributed by Simon & Schuster. Its UK based publisher, Pikku Books, specifically promotes the book as an educational tool for schools.

One organization, UK Lawyers for Israel (UKLFI), is calling on the publishers to recall the book and reprint it with the correct map, adding it is likely illegal to be used in UK schools.

According to the organization's website, Director Caroline Turner said: "This is a very attractive book, and it is a great idea for children to read about amazing women of the Middle East. However, to have excluded Israel from the map of the Middle East, and to have excluded all Israeli and Jewish women from the book is misleading and biased, and tends to promote a view of the Middle East that completely delegitimizes Israel."

### CDC Warns Of 2 Listeria Outbreaks Tied To Packaged Salad



Fresh Express & Ready Pak Pre-Packaged salad sits on the shelf at a Bell Market grocery store June 19, 2003 in San Francisco, California. Packaged salad which was near non-existent a decade ago has become the second fastest selling item on grocery shelves behind bottle water, overall the retail market for bagged salad is \$2 billion annually. (Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

(AP) — U.S. health officials are warning the public not to eat certain brands of packaged salads, which they say are linked to two small, long-running listeria outbreaks in which three people died.

One outbreak is linked to packaged salads produced

by Fresh Express and another has been tied to packaged salads produced by Dole. The outbreaks are caused by different strains of listeria bacteria and there's no known link between them, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday.

In the outbreak linked to Fresh Express, ten people in eight states were identified in the outbreak between 2016 and late October of this year. All were hospitalized and one person, in Pennsylvania, died.

This week, Fresh Express recalled several brands of packaged salad products with product codes Z324 through Z350. The CDC is telling people not to eat, sell, or serve any recalled products.

A separate outbreak caused by a different strain was found on two Dole packaged salads. In that outbreak, 16 people in 13 states infected with the listeria strain have been reported between August 2014 and mid-October of this year. That includes 12 who were hospitalized and two — in Michigan and Wisconsin — who died.

### Baltimore Officer Dies Days After Being Shot In Patrol Car

(AP) — A Baltimore police officer has died after being removed from life support one week after she was shot while sitting in her patrol car.

The Baltimore Police Department said Thursday that Officer Keona Holley's health had been deteriorating in recent days and the family made the difficult decision to end life support. She died shortly thereafter.

Two men — Elliot Knox, 31, and Travon Shaw, 32 — have been arrested and charged in her shooting, and a second shooting soon afterward that left a man dead.

Holley, 39, was on duty in her patrol car when she was shot about 1:30 a.m. Dec. 16 in southern Baltimore.

After Holley's shooting, police allege the two men went to a southwest Baltimore neighborhood about 10 miles (16 kilometers) away and shot and killed 38-year-old Justin Johnson.

It's not clear what prompted the shootings.

### 1619 Project Creator Says She Doesn't Understand This Idea That Parents Should Decide What's Being Taught In School

(DCNF) The 1619 Project Creator said she doesn't understand the argument "that parents should decide what's being taught" to their children in school on NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday.

The 1619 project was created by Nikole Hannah-Jones, a writer for The New York Times, and it promotes the idea that America's 'true founding' occurred when slaves arrived in the colonies, framing the history of the country around race and

slavery.

"I don't really understand this idea that parents should decide what's being taught," Hannah-Jones said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "I'm not a professional educator. I don't have a degree in social studies or science," she said.

"We send our children to school because we want them to be taught by people who have an expertise in the subject area, and that is not my job," Hannah-Jones said.

During a September debate, Democratic Virginia gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe said parents should not make decisions regarding what schools teach their children.

"I'm not gonna let parents come into schools and actually take books out and make their own decisions," McAuliffe said. "I stopped the bill that I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach."

McAuliffe also vetoed a bill that would have required school districts to warn parents about educational materials containing "sexually explicit" content and require teachers to provide replacement instructional materials for any student whose parent requests an alternative.

### 15-Year-Old Boy Falls Overboard On Cruise Ship, Dies

(DCNF) A 15-year-old boy reportedly died after falling overboard from a cruise ship heading back to Miami on Wednesday.

A "Man Overboard" alarm was reportedly sounded at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday evening aboard the MSC Seashore cruise ship as it headed back to Miami after a five-day trip in the Caribbean, according to Crew Center. The outlet reported that a 15-year-old child fell from a balcony.

MSC Cruises said in a statement that the child died and that the incident was an apparent suicide, Fox News reported.

"A young man travelling with his family on board MSC Seashore appears to have died of suicide Wednesday evening," MSC Cruises told Fox News. "Our team immediately notified authorities and our care team is assisting the young man's family on board."

A Miami-Dade County detective told Fox News that an investigation into the events was ongoing but no foul play was suspected.

A video taken by a passenger reportedly aboard the MSC Seashore shows a frantic scene as passengers rushed to the sides of the ship following the sounding of the "Man Overboard" alarm.

"All of us at MSC Cruises are heartbroken. The family remains in our thoughts and prayers," MSC Cruises said.

When reached for comment, MSC Cruises told the Daily Caller News Foundation that "out of respect for the family's privacy, we will not be discussing any additional details."

## MIDDLE EAST

### Prime Minister Bennett Isolates After Daughter Tests Positive For Coronavirus



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett addresses the United Nations General Assembly, in NYC, USA, September 27, 2021. Photo by Avi Ohayon/GPO

(VINnews) — Prime Minister Naftali Bennett entered quarantine Sunday after his daughter tested positive for coronavirus, according to a government spokesman. Despite receiving the news, Bennett did not immediately isolate and instead attended a Yamina meeting on the Golan heights before self-isolating. However Bennett took a rapid antigen test before the meeting and tested negative.

Bennett's daughter, who is 14 years old, was vaccinated against COVID-19 in June. The rest of his family have tested negative, except for his youngest son who requires another test to be taken. Nevertheless, he will remain in quarantine, according to an announcement by the prime minister's office.

An employee in the prime minister's office had also tested positive Sunday, but he had not come into contact with the prime minister or other ministers according to the prime minister's spokesperson.

### Israel Faces Steep Rise In Omicron Variant Cases, Adds New Restrictions

(VINnews) — Israel is experiencing a steep rise in coronavirus cases including the Omicron variant. On Friday and Shabbat the number of people infected with Omicron in Israel doubled and the total number of people testing positive was 2,285, the highest number since October 13th.

1,118 Israelis have tested positive for Omicron, 723 of them returning from abroad. People who were exposed to the Omicron variant will require a 14-day quarantine, although those fully vaccinated will require a shorter period to be determined by the Health Ministry.

Currently the virus's rate of reproduction (R) stands at 1.41%, a steep rise since last week. The number of people in serious condition rose by 118% over the past week, but there are still less than 100 people in serious condition. Currently there are 154 people in hospitals, 98 in serious condition and 39 connected to respirators, 5 more than the previous day.

# Wolves of Wall Street Invade Miami in Unprecedented Real Estate Explosion

By: Lieba Nesis

Miami Real Estate continues to heat up as both residential and commercial properties skyrocket. It was recently announced the Wharf Miami would spend \$185 million to transform into "Wharf Riverside" - a complex comprising a 165-room Dream Hotel, an event hall, a nightclub and restaurants. This two tower development slated to be completed in 2025, will transform Miami into an entertainment mecca while retaining the development's lustrous river views. Within the past month alone at least ten major development deals have transpired in Miami, including Mast Capital recently paying \$103 million for land at 1420 South Miami Avenue in Brickell with hopes of building 1,250 new residential units.

The formerly sleepy Brickell has taken off with a bang. For the first time in over ten years Brickell's financial district entitled the "Wall Street of the South" is building a standalone \$300 million office building at 830 Brickell Plaza that will cater to corporate, creative and technology clients. This 55 story Class A tower is being developed by Cain International and OKO Group. Blackstone, Microsoft, Icahn Enterprises, Marathon Asset Management, Balyasny Asset Management, Hidden Lake Asset Management, Hagerly Garage, Thoma Bravo Equity and Social and Nucleus Research are a few of the companies setting up offices in Miami. Ubiquitous cranes adorn Miami streets as more than 21 major office and



Aventura Mall. Photo Credit: Lieba Nesis



The Miami Faena Hotel lounge. Photo Credit: Lieba Nesis



A Jewish wedding in Miami Beach. Photo Credit: Lieba Nesis



The iconic Fontainebleau lobby boasts past occupants Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley. Photo Credit: Lieba Nesis

residential towers were under construction in 2021-the actual number is probably triple.

The tallest all residential Miami building "Aston Martin Residences" with 66 floors at 300 Biscayne Boulevard Way will be completed in 2022 with 391 units designed by architectural giants Revuelta and Bodas Miani Anger. More than 75 percent sold, this super hot property boasts a superyacht marina, virtual golf course, two movie theaters, a barbershop, art gallery, private dining room, infinity pool, and sky bar lounge. Of the 7 penthouses being offered, two have already

sold at a price range of \$16.7 million to \$25 million for over 8,800 square feet of space. These stratospheric prices were previously unheard of in inland Miami. The crowning glory of this extraordinary edifice is the still unsold \$50 million 27,000 square foot triplex penthouse which comes with an Aston Martin Vulcan supercar.

Related Group has become a dominant Miami player purchasing a mixed use luxury condo project at 444 Brickell Avenue that will be managed by Baccarat Hotel. "The Baccarat Hotel and Residences" will be available in the second quarter

of 2024. The three towers comprising 57, 77 and 82 stories will contain office, retail and hotel components. Related is the largest condo developer in Miami and continues its frenzied pace of snatching up available properties.

Another company on a Miami buying spree is Los Angeles based Black Lion Investment Group which recently purchased its fourth Miami Dade retail site in 6 months for \$19 million. Located at 801 South Pointe Drive they paid \$995 per square foot for 19,100 square feet of retail-these astronomical sums were previously unheard of. However, South of

5th Street in Miami continues to prove it is the future of Miami as dozens of restaurateurs and businesses set up shop.

It appears that all of Florida is "hot hot hot" as Fort Lauderdale has a condo project at 808 Southeast 4th Residences that was recently approved and Tampa Bay saw the biggest rent hikes in the US this year (more than 24 percent). Lest you forget about individual properties, this year \$10 million plus home sales were up 158 percent in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. Dec 2020 to November 2021 saw sales volume of \$6.9 billion comprising more than 394 sales of \$10 million or above homes. Sales are up 4 times and 290 percent as compared to pre-pandemic prices.

It is undeniable that the exploding Florida market is attributable to the Covid disaster. People have come to the realization that remote working is a possibility, and no longer want to be huddled indoors in New York during the brutal winter months. Moreover, the lack of a Florida State Income Tax and Florida's "business as usual" approach has made it irresistible to the masses. Sitting in the bustling Fontainebleau lobby the other night I bumped into a gentleman from Dubai whose first time in Miami had him longing for more. The Fontainebleau boasts the best lobby in Miami with its Bleau bar and Liv club attracting hordes to this iconic venue. Omar's excitement was palpable as he exclaimed, "if this is a typical night in Miami, I ain't ever going back to Dubai."



SLS Lux Brickell-Photo Credit: Lieba Nesis



Brickell City Center Mall. Photo Credit: Lieba Nesis



Brickell City Center Mall.



SLS Lux Brickell. Photo Credit: Lieba Nesis

## Mansion on Miami's Star Island Sells for \$75M; Breaks Priciest Home Record

Edited by: TJVNews.com

Despite the economic woes that many Americans are experiencing along with the highest inflation rate in decades, it appears that some people are still in a position to shell out megabucks for new digs.

According to a report in the New York Post, a deep pocketed buyer just plunked down \$75 million for a waterfront mansion on Miami Beach's Star Island.

The Post reported that the luxury mansion located at 8 Star Island Drive has nine bedrooms and 11 bathrooms across 15,000 square feet on a 1.85-acre lot. Mansion Global listed the seller as Lourdes

Sanjenis, who had owned the spread since at least 2013. The identity of the new owner isn't known, according to the Post report.

Speaking to the Post, the folks behind the sale were Jill Eber and Jill Hertzberg of the Jills Zeder Group — which is affiliated with Coldwell Banker Realty. They confirmed that the amount paid for the mansion had set a record for the priciest home ever sold in Miami.

In August, when the listing first appeared the asking price was \$80 million and the first to break the news about the deal was the Wall Street journal and Mansion Global.

Speaking to Mansion Global, Eber said that the dollar figure of the sale proves the "ever-growing popularity" of Mi-

ami's real estate market, as was reported by the Post.

The previous record set for the priciest home sale in Miami was set in 2015 with a \$15 million sale. Billionaire hedge funder giant Ken Griffin spent \$60 million for two Faena House penthouses, as was reported by the Post. Reports circulated that Griffin had plans to combine the two penthouses but that never came to fruition. He then listed them for \$73 million, but ultimately sold them for a loss, according to the Post.

The Post reported that Griffin also smashed purchase records in New York City as well. He shelled out approximately \$238 million for a luxury condominium at 220 Central Park South in midtown.



A deep pocketed buyer just plunked down \$75 million for a waterfront mansion on Miami Beach's Star Island. Photo Credit: miamirealestate.com

Griffin also owns property on Star Island which has about 30 homes. Other nigg names who own homes on the exclu-

sive island include rapper Sean "Diddy" Combs.

The property that was just purchased for \$75 million in-

cludes a four-car garage and an aerial shot of the property shows a massive outdoor pool area surrounded by palm trees and covered walkways. Just past the pool, there's a boat dock, as was reported by the Post.

In Miami, over the last two years, a number of home sales have reached the \$50 million mark, according to appraiser Jonathan Miller, of Miller Samuel who spoke with Mansion Global.

The Post reported that Miller said: "All of a sudden, we have a record that's 50% higher than the last high-water mark, which might mean Miami is giving Palm Beach some competition."

Elizabeth Lima, of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Realty, had the listing, according to the Post report.

# 'Spider-Man' Surpasses \$1B Globally in Second Weekend

By: Lindsay Bahr

Peter Parker's good fortune continued over the holiday weekend as Hollywood prepares to close the books on a turbulent 2021. Even with some mighty competition from new Matrix and Sing movies, and rising concerns over the omicron variant, "Spider-Man: No Way Home" stayed in the No. 1 spot and netted a few more milestones too including crossing the \$1 billion mark globally.

According to studio estimates Sunday "Spider-Man" added \$81.5 million over the three-day weekend, down 69% from its first weekend. The Sony and Marvel film has now grossed \$467 million from North American theaters, more than doubling the domestic grosses of 2021s previous No. 1 film, "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings."

With \$587.1 million from 61 overseas markets, in just 12 days of release, "Spider-Man" has grossed \$1.05 billion globally. It's the first film of the pandemic to cross \$1 billion and is tied with "Star Wars:

take third place.

The animated musical "Sing 2" features high-profile celebrity talent including Matthew McConaughey, Scarlett Johansson, Reese Witherspoon and Bono, as well as a jukebox soundtrack full of well-known hits. Since its release Wednesday, it's made \$41 million (\$1.6 million of that came from Thanksgiving weekend showings) from North America and \$65 million worldwide.

"We're extraordinarily pleased," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution.

Orr said the stellar CinemaScore (A+) and audience scores suggest that the film will continue to perform well in the next few weeks, when many kids are still out of school for the holidays.

The fourth Matrix also opened on Wednesday and has earned an estimated \$22.5 million in its first five days in North America. The film, directed by Lana Wachowski and starring Keanu Reeves and Carrie-Anne Moss, is currently streaming on HBO Max as well. Globally, it's grossed



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Benedict Cumberbatch, left, and Tom Holland in Columbia Pictures' "Spider-Man: No Way Home." (Sony Pictures via AP)



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Tom Holland, left, and Benedict Cumberbatch in Columbia Pictures' "Spider-Man: No Way Home." (Sony Pictures via AP)



Paul Thomas Anderson's "Licorice Pizza" expanded nationwide on Christmas, after playing in limited release for a month, and added \$2.3 million bringing its total to \$3.7 million. Photo Credit: Wikipedia



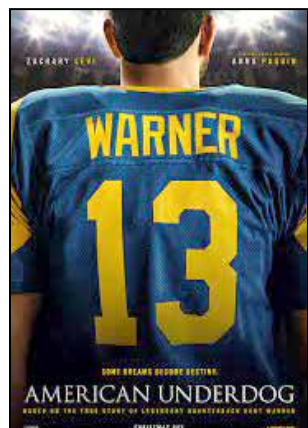
The animated musical "Sing 2" features high-profile celebrity talent including Matthew McConaughey, Scarlett Johansson, Reese Witherspoon and Bono, as well as a jukebox soundtrack full of well-known hits. Photo Credit: universalpictures.com



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In fourth place was Disney and 20th Century's "The King's Man," a prequel to the action-comedy Kingsman series starring Ralph Fiennes. It came in slightly under expectations with \$6.4 million from the weekend and \$10 million from its first five days. The audience skewed heavily male (65%). Photo Credit: disney.fandom.com



The Kurt Warner biopic "American Underdog" opened on Christmas Day and has made an estimated \$6.2 million in its two days in release to round out the top five. Zachary Levi stars as Warner, the quarterback who went from undrafted free agent to Hall of Famer. Photo Credit: Wikipedia.com

\$69.8 million to date.

While the studio was hoping for a stronger box office, Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' head of domestic distribution, said the movie achieved what they were looking for as an overall strategy including HBO Max.

"The Matrix Resurrections" is the last of the 18 Warner

Bros. films released in 2021 to debut both in theaters and on HBO Max simultaneously. Starting in 2022, the studio will have a 45-day exclusive theatrical window on their films.

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Paul Thomas Anderson's "Licorice Pizza" expanded nationwide on Christmas, after playing in limited release for a month, and added \$2.3 million bringing its total to \$3.7 million. And right behind it was the Denzel Washington-directed drama "A Journal For Jordan," which to \$2.2 million.

With just a few days left in 2021, the North American box office is currently sitting at \$4.3 billion and is likely to net out around \$4.4 billion. Pre-pandemic, it was normal for a year's box office to surpass \$11 billion.

"To say it was a roller-coaster year is an understatement," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore, Inc. "The marketplace is

still facing challenges from the pandemic, but what an amazing capper to one of the most incredible years ever at the box office."

He added: "The future of the movie theater a year ago was a big question mark, and a year

later it's here to stay." Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Spider-Man: No Way Home," \$81.5 million.
2. "Sing 2," \$23.8 million.
3. "The Matrix Resurrections," \$12 million.
4. "The King's Man," \$6.4 million.
5. "American Underdog," \$6.2 million.
6. "West Side Story," \$2.8 million.
7. "Licorice Pizza," \$2.3 million.
8. "A Journal For Jordan," \$2.2 million.
9. "Encanto," \$2 million.
10. "83," \$1.8 million.

(AP)

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# 21 Reasons to be Cheerful at the End of 2021

Doom and gloom may seem the order of the day as we close up 2021, but this year bought plenty of things to celebrate and be proud of. Join us in a feel-good look at the last 12 months.

By: Nicky Blackburn

Another difficult year of Covid is coming to a close, leaving us all exhausted by the twists and turns of this seemingly endless pandemic. Each time we think it's coming to an end, nature throws us a curve ball – first it was Delta and now it's Omicron.

While the pandemic may have upended our lives, and dominated the news cycles worldwide, there are plenty of other things that have also been happening that not only warrant our attention, but in fact deserve a shoutout.

As we near the end of 2021 and look forward to what we all hope will be a better new year, join us in celebrating and sharing some of the many positive things that have happened this year.

Here are 21 reasons to be cheerful. Why not share with friends and family to raise the spirits of all as we move into a new year.

## 1. Scientists are learning to talk to whales

Perhaps finally we are about to learn what Sperm whales think and talk about, an opening of communication to the natural world that could transform the way we coexist with the creatures of our planet.

This year, marine scientists from Israel, the United States, the United Kingdom and more, launched an ambitious five-year Cetacean Translation Initiative (CETI) in the Caribbean to decipher how Sperm whales communicate and whether their speech patterns can be replicated so humans can communicate with them.

The Sperm whale, a vulnerable species, has the largest brain on Earth, more than five times heavier than a human's. Like humans, it has a complex com-



Neta Schreiber Gamliel, SafeUP's co-founder and CEO (left), with some of the startup's employees and volunteers. Photo courtesy of SafeUP

munication system and lives in tightly knit family groups.

This was one of my favorite stories of the year, and we'll be watching the research.

## 2. Touching or sniffing plants is good for your health

New research shows that sniff-

ing or interacting with plants can increase your wellbeing. And who wouldn't want to increase their well-being after the last two years?

In a study published in Conservation Biology, researchers from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa showed that closeness to nature – touching or smelling plants and flowers – improves wellbeing more than just strolling through a forest or looking at a green landscape. So get on out there, folks.

## 3. Israel is making good progress with treatments against Covid-19

Since Covid-19 hit the planet, pharmaceutical companies worldwide have been searching for treatments and cures. Scientists suggest that Covid will never entirely disappear, but will become like flu – with waves of mutations that differ in severity.

Study results showed that MesenCure reduced a patient's hospitalization by about half and reduced mortality by about 70% compared to a control group. All patients had life-threatening pneumonia and respiratory distress caused by Covid-19.

We also reported on three other companies searching for a



Interacting with plants is good for your health. Photo by Freya, Shutterstock



An Enliven employee turning human donor cells into an immunotherapy treatment called Allocetra. Photo: courtesy

Covid cure:

Allocetra by Enliven Therapeutics, Opaganib by RedHill Biopharma, and EXO-CD24, developed by a scientist at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center.

Allocetra is an immunotherapy drug candidate that reprograms malfunctioning immune cells, and is given by IV infusion to severe or critical Covid-19 patients. In a trial of 21 severe and critical patients, 19 were released from the hospital in 5.6 days, less time than expected. The company is in the midst of a new trial of 152 patients.

Opaganib is being evaluated as an oral drug with antiviral and anti-inflammatory actions to treat severe Covid-19 pneumonia. Results of a trial involving 475 patients should be available soon, but early results are promising. In December, RedHill Biopharma announced that Omicron is not expected to affect the performance of Opaganib.

EXO-CD24 is an experimen-

tal inhaled medication designed to stop the "cytokine storm" that occurs in the lungs of 5-7% of Covid-19 patients. In August, the medical center reported that 93% of 90 serious Covid-19 patients, treated in several Greek hospitals with EXO-CD24 as part of a Phase II clinical trial, were discharged within five days.

It's early days yet, of course, but it's good to know that treatments like these are showing such promise. We'll continue to



Hey, 2021 wasn't all bad! Image via Shutterstock

whose kidneys went to an Arab woman, the Arabs who tried to stop rioters from burning down Jewish businesses.

Organizations up and down the country came out strongly in favor of coexistence, from doctors and nurses to biotech leaders and high-tech leaders.

As the country finally calmed down, peace organizations stepped up their work, more determined than ever to make coexistence work.

And the businesses that had been burned and destroyed? The owners rebuilt, often with the help of local communities, and turned their devastating experience into something positive and good.

## 7. Israel is turning its attention to the environment and that's good for everyone

Israel is a formidable, innovative world force in so many different technologies including cyber, food, automotive and water, so the news that Israel's government and tech leaders are turning their attention to environmental technologies is good news indeed.

Israel was never known for its climate techs in the past, and the country has been slow to adopt good environmental practices, but in the last few years something has been changing.

The most interesting companies we spot at ISRAEL21c in our day-to-day hunt for stories are increasingly in the environmental field. That's where the innovators are going, and that is also where we decided to turn our attention during our 20th anniversary year as climate change increasingly impacts our world.

In October, a new report showed that there are 1,200 climate-tech companies in Israel, and the number is likely to grow after Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett announced that Israel's tech sector must pivot toward the battle against climate change, and the government will cut red tape and sign up as early customers for any potential technologies.

## 8. A match that just keeps getting better and better

In a Middle East full of conflict, one of the most heartening stories of the last year is the way Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have embraced one another so wholeheartedly.

Since normalization in Sep-

tember 2020, the people of these three nations have rushed to fill the gap with visits, agreements, MOUs and cooperation in virtually every area you can think of.

There are billion-dollar investment funds, joint clean-tech ventures, innovation ventures and thinktanks.

But it's not just business; the relationship goes far deeper than that.

There are baseball tournaments between Israeli and Emirati kids, exchanges of organ transplants, an Israeli baby born in a UAE hospital.

And to cap it all, there's even a plan to fly together to the moon and back.

## 9. The world's manure problem is being sorted

Trust the folks at Paulee CleanTec to come up with a solution for manure. We've been following this company since it developed a device that could turn dog droppings into odorless powder at the press of a button.

Since then, the company has grown and pivoted, and has now developed a low-cost solution to convert animal manure into sterile, odorless organic fertilizer.

Our farms today are drowning in dung. Globally, hundreds of millions of tons of the stuff are untreated or improperly treated and discharged into waterways or absorbed into soil, contaminating crops and drinking water.

Paulee CleanTec's low-cost chemical process, now being tested at a kibbutz in Israel, converts the manure into organic potassium-rich fertilizer, free of pathogens and odor. The powdered fertilizer can be stored safely for the farm to use, sell or trade.

## 10. McDonald's started using recycled rubbish to make trays

McDonald's restaurants in Brazil are serving up orders on new trays manufactured with a composite thermoplastic material made by Israeli company UBQ Materials.

This is the first product to come out of a partnership between UBQ and Arcos Dorados Holdings, the largest independent McDonald's franchise in the world with over 2,200 restaurants in Latin America

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

and the Caribbean.

UBQ breaks down unsorted household waste into its basic natural components and creates a new thermoplastic material that can be made into things like bricks, shopping carts, pipes, trash cans and automotive parts.

Now we just have to persuade fast-food restaurants everywhere to start doing the same.



Ecological concrete helps create a sustainable future for the offshore wind industry. Photo courtesy of EConcrete Tech

### 11. Daily chores are getting easier

A couple of years ago we got a machine that folds laundry. Now we've got a robot called Gary that can do much, much more.

Picking up toys or socks, watering the plants, stripping bedsheets, serving food – Gary, which was created by Petah Tikva's Unlimited Robotics, is the height of a 10-year-old, moves at 3.1 miles an hour, and goes into production in early 2022.

We also covered two other devices designed to make life easier. A nail polish robot that paints and dries your nails in 10 minutes per hand and a mini diaper cleaning machine for those environmentally friendly, but not so pleasant to wash, reusable diapers.

### 12. Maybe we're nearing the end of animal testing

Two developments this year have brought the end of animal testing much closer, while also potentially reducing the cost of drug development, and the time it takes to bring a drug to market.

Quris is rolling out the world's first clinical-prediction AI platform to evaluate the safety and efficacy of new drugs. The platform can test thousands of novel drug candidates at once, on hundreds of miniaturized "patients-on-a-chip," improving efficacy, cutting development costs, and of course leaving out those poor little mice.

In March, we also reported on another new chip technology with the same principle.

Researchers at Hebrew University of Jerusalem incorporated microscopic sensors in human tissue to enable precise monitoring of the body's response to drug treatments, in real time.

### 13. A community banded together to help migrating birds

Millions of birds migrate across Eilat and the southern Arava desert twice a year because this strip of land in south-

ern Israel is the only land-bridge connecting Eurasia and Africa.

It's a long, perilous journey for the birds, but in Eilat the International Birding & Research Center <https://eilatbirds.com/en/> has joined forces with local community members to help keep the flyway clear of hazards such as wind turbines, cable antennas, power lines and even glass façades that birds can crash into.

The community initiative,

which encourages farmers to make migrating birds welcome on their farms and the local water company to keep the water reservoir safe for birds, was chosen as one of the 19 most outstanding projects, out of 258 candidates from 26 countries, at the UN Conference of the Parties (COP15).

### 14. Buildings might soon be able to create their own energy

Energy shortages are becoming increasingly common, not just in developing countries, but even in places like the United States and Israel. Israeli company TurboGen may have a solution that will help buildings create their own energy with small, lightweight microturbines that can generate electricity, heat and cooling.

The microturbines can replace traditional boilers and A/C units in homes, public buildings, hotels, hospitals and offices, lowering electricity and heating costs, and preventing power outages.

The first commercial installation is planned in Manhattan later in 2022.

### 15. A revolutionary blood clot to heal chronic wounds

Wounds in the body usually heal alone, but sometimes people suffer chronic injuries that never heal because the wounds form too gradually to set off the body's immune response.

ActiGraft, invented in Israel, is a unique solution to this problem – a blood clot made from a vial of the patient's blood mixed with a clotting agent. It can be applied to the wound to jumpstart the natural healing process that failed to begin before.

It takes just 12 minutes for medical staff to create the blood clot. The product has FDA and CE clearance and is already sold in the US and 15 other countries, including Israel.

Also worth mentioning for wound care is Nanomedic, which has developed a spray-on skin for wound care. The flexi-

ble second skin is applied once, anywhere on the body, and no dressing changes are needed. When the skin underneath heals, the dressing peels away on its own.

### 16. New techs could help fix the shipping crisis

Over the last two years we have all discovered how vulnerable the shipping industry is. Covid-19 with its labor short-



Fadi Kasem and Mor Janashvili (in the hospital bed) at an emotional reunion at the Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya. Photo courtesy Galilee Medical Center

ages, port shutdowns, passenger flight cancellations and increased online purchasing, triggered a global supply-chain crisis. Then, to make matters worse, the massive Ever Given container ship got stuck in the Suez Canal in March.

Israeli companies like Freightos, WaveBL, DockTech and Windward are working on solutions.

Freightos is building a global freight booking platform to connect all players, from importers to exporters of every size to airlines, ocean liners and trucking companies.

WaveBL has built a blockchain-backed digital shipping platform to provide an electronic alternative to printed documents, while DockTech enables real-time dynamic mapping of depth in canals and ports, to help avoid grounding accidents such as the one in the Suez Canal.

Windward uses AI to predict when a shipment will arrive, curing many headaches in the current system that can lead to missed connections.

Meanwhile, we were proud to report that Israel leads the world in altruistic kidney donations per capita.

right off the shelf. It will take another five years or so before clinical trials begin, but in the meantime this is certainly an extremely promising and futuristic step forward.

### 17. Pig organs could be used in humans

There's an acute shortage of human organs for transplant and demand is rising. In the US alone, 100,000 people are waiting for lifesaving organs, and around 20 Americans die every day waiting for them.

The domestic pig is an excellent potential source of donor organs for humans – they are easily available, and their organs are close in size to human organs. The only problem: They get rejected by the human body.

Now, an Israeli scientific breakthrough could have the answer. Researchers at Rabin Medical Center's Beilinson Hospital have spent the last four years honing a way to modify pig organs so that the human immune system won't recognize them as foreign.

These hybrid organs would give an unlimited supply of organs that could be prepared and stored, and transplant surgeons could order them as needed,

the temperature and moisture of crops, providing instructions to farmers to maximize yields in the face of a changing climate.

Other interesting companies we featured this year include FieldIn, which is aiming to digitize farming – from spraying pesticides to harvesting – in an effort to increase sustainability.

There's also BetterSeeds, which aims to genetically change the architecture of many types of crops to make them easier for mechanized picking.

### 19. Nothing stops aid work

For sure, lockdowns and closed borders didn't make it easy, but aid organizations in Israel didn't let that stop them from doing their work – all over the world.

From tornado-struck Kentucky, to quake-torn Haiti, floods in Germany, and the building collapse in Surfside, Florida, Israeli first responders and aid experts were on the scene.

Israel's firefighters also helped quench forest blazes in Greece, while activists managed to spirit vulnerable people out of Afghanistan when the Taliban took over.

Israelis offered Covid support in Argentina, India, Eswatini and more.

### 20. Food tech is going through a revolution

When you have a nation that loves food, has a very diverse population, and is great at tech-

We've got a plethora of exciting alternative protein companies developing like InnovoPro, Hargol and SavorEat – which launched its first plant-based burger to the world this morning.

In a country where there are more vegans per capita than in any other country, it's also no surprise that we have a growing number of alternative protein companies and cultivated meat companies.

Hollywood has certainly noticed: Leonardo DiCaprio invested in Aleph Farms and Ashton Kutcher invested in Meat-ech. Future Meat Technologies just announced a \$347 million Series B round, marking the largest investment to date in the cultivated meat industry.

Altogether, there are around 400 food-tech startups in Israel, and the number is growing fast. For a climate-threatened planet threatened by food shortages, sustainable solutions like these will make all the difference.

### 21. People are magnificent

Given all that is going on in the world, and the often depressing or disturbing news, it's easy to forget that people are amazing, and they do extraordinary things, often against the odds. At ISRAEL21c it's impossible for us to forget this, because we hear about so many examples.

There's the dad who built his disabled child a stroller so she could take part in a marathon. Or the boy with no hands who won gold in a taekwondo competition, or the 21-year-old who founded a global movement to pick up trash.

Then there's the woman who fostered 217 babies, and the Israeli man rescuing stingless bees in Mexico.

And what about the Iranian judoka Saeid Mollaei who was ordered to lose a match at the Tokyo 2019 World Championships in order not to face Israeli opponent Sagi Muki? Instead, he and Muki became good friends, Mollaei became a Mongolian citizen, and in February he won a silver medal at a competition in Israel.

We could go on and on, be-



Israeli Head of Mission in Dubai Ilan Sztulman and wife Jacqueline on August 14, 2021, with newborn Mia. Photo courtesy of Israeli Foreign Ministry



Gary the robot straightening up toys. Photo courtesy of Unlimited Robotics

### 18. Technology is making farming easier

Farming has to get more efficient if we are going to feed a world that is growing in population but shrinking in arable land.

Israel has been fighting desertification and water shortages for decades, so it's not surprising that some of the most interesting technologies to make farming more efficient are coming out of Israel.

One of Time magazine's best inventions of 2021 was Israeli ag-tech company, SupPlant, which uses sensors to monitor

nology, it's not surprising that the result is one of the most innovative food-tech industries in the world.

Israel has this habit of jumping on a trend – like homeland security in days of old, then cyber, then auto-technologies – and becoming a world leader. Now it seems set to do the same with the food industry.

cause the truth is there are so many people who do astounding things and rarely get noticed. Here's to them, and here's to you!

In 2022, we look forward to bringing you more stories that show the amazing spirit of the people living in this tiny patch of land.

(ISRAEL21C.ORG)

Read more at: [israel21c.org](http://israel21c.org)

## The Holocaust Torah and the Stories It Tells . . .

By: Yvette Miller

With his white beard, erect bearing and melodious voice, Mr. Friedman has been a fixture in our synagogue for decades. Whenever we need someone to lead services, he steps in—and fills the sanctuary with old-fashioned melodies that come directly from prewar Europe. At times—during services, Shabbat meals or kiddush—he hums loudly: operatic Jewish tunes I’ve heard only on old records, their melody swelling briefly. Reminders of the sounds of his youth.

For years, I learned about his past only in pieces—snatches of information gleaned from brief conversations. “Did you know that Mr. Friedman sailed on the Exodus?” my husband asked years ago, referring to the clandestine ship carrying hundreds of broken Holocaust survivors to what would soon become the state of Israel. The ship was intercepted and attacked by British forces, and its broken human cargo of desperate passengers was imprisoned behind barbed wire in Cyprus. Looking at the elderly man, I could scarcely believe it, and asked another elderly member of our synagogue who nodded grimly: “There’s a lot more to Mr. Friedman than meets the eye.”

Word spread, and we began asking Mr. Friedman questions,

until finally one day he brought photos and newspaper clippings into synagogue and told his story to the enthralled congregation over Shabbat lunch.

He was a teenager in 1947, recently released from a concentration camp, orphaned and bereft. The Haganah (the precursor to Israel’s military)

Once he settled in Israel, Mr. Friedman told the spellbound congregation, he was drafted into the new Jewish state’s fledgling army and fought in Israel’s war of independence.

“You’re a hero!” somebody cried, and Mr. Friedman gave a characteristic shake of his head. Explaining that he did a lot of

invited him for a holiday meal, he insisted that he wanted to stay home, alone. “Who will you talk to?” I asked. “Look,” he replied, “I’ll put a mirror on the table in front of me, and talk to myself.”

He hadn’t always been alone. His wife, Lilly, was beautiful and sweet. I remember sitting

with the vibrant needlepoint copies of famous paintings that Lilly loved to sew.

There were lots of things I knew about Mr. Friedman, and many I didn’t. One fact I thought I understood was that he’s always been a man of ordinary means. I’d seen his small apartment, and I’d asked him

new Torah scrolls. Torah scrolls are painstakingly handwritten by scribes, using special handmade ink and parchment. It typically takes a scribe a year of full-time work to complete a Torah. The cost is very high. New Torah scrolls can run into the tens of thousands of dollars. It’s customary to invite everyone in a community to help contribute to the cost, and the fundraising to complete such a work can take years.

Mr. Friedman had commissioned a sefer Torah, our rabbi announced—an entire scroll—and had paid for the undertaking himself, in memory of his parents and his wife. When congregants asked to be allowed to contribute, he asked our rabbi to explain that this wasn’t possible. (In the end, a “deal” was struck: congregants were able to contribute towards purchasing a silver crown for the Torah, but the scroll itself was Mr. Friedman’s alone.) The next time I saw Mr. Friedman—tidy as ever, his white hair brushed neatly back, wearing what looked like an old, much-mended suit and a tie—I asked him about the Torah scroll.

“It’s in memory of my parents and my wife,” he explained, nodding.

I glanced at his frayed cuffs, his old and much-polished shoes. “However did you save



Mr. Friedman had commissioned a sefer Torah, our rabbi announced—an entire scroll—and had paid for the undertaking himself, in memory of his parents and his wife.

organized the secret journey on the Exodus 1947. Mr. Friedman was one of those allowed on board the ship, which was named by its hopeful Jewish occupants. He described the overcrowded conditions, the fear as the rickety ship was attacked by British fighters, and the joy at being allowed to take a few steps on the shores of the Holy Land before being forced back on a ship and imprisoned by the British for months.

guard duty, he brushed aside all compliments. “I drank a lot of coffee,” he shrugged, ending the conversation. He could be like that: brusque, cutting through sentimentality.

“You’re a pretty girl, but I can’t see your face with that hat,” he told me many times after Shabbat services. I started wearing hats with smaller brims to synagogue just to please him.

He could be prickly. When I



The author writes: “Mr. Friedman has been a fixture in our synagogue for decades. Whenever we need someone to lead services, he steps in—and fills the sanctuary with old-fashioned melodies that come directly from prewar Europe”

next to her once in synagogue on Shavuot. She was eyeing the flowers decorating the synagogue for the holiday. “You should have seen the flowers we had back in Europe,” she sighed. “They filled the synagogue. And the sweet smell!” But Lilly had passed away several years ago, and Mr. Friedman was now alone, living in the small apartment they’d shared, every wall decorated

about his life once he moved to Chicago. “I worked for a candle manufacturer,” he had told me. Once, when I’d asked him why he didn’t visit Lilly’s relatives in Israel, he explained that he couldn’t afford the trip.

So when I first heard about the Holocaust Torah, I thought I’d misunderstood. “Who’s sponsoring the Torah?” I asked. I had participated in many campaigns to raise money for

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

enough to pay for it?" I asked. Mr. Friedman fixed me with a piercing stare and enunciated slowly: "I've been saving for this Torah all my life."

Shortly after this exchange, I brought a meal to Mr. Friedman's apartment, and asked if he minded if I stayed and asked him about his parents. He led me to two old pictures hanging on his wall. They showed a very young man in a hat, and a girl—she looked scarcely out of her teens—wearing a wig. "These are my parents," he said. He gazed at the pictures tenderly for a moment. "Ask what you like," he said with a sigh.

Mr. Friedman (Mordechai was his given name) was born in Sárospatak, a Hungarian town of two thousand people, a quarter of whom were Jewish. His family was chassidic. He had an older sister, Sarah. "It was unusual for a chassidic family to have only two children," he acknowledged. There had been complications at his birth, and his mother hadn't been able to have more children.

"There was very little anti-Semitism," Mr. Friedman said. "I complained once that a boy selling newspapers yelled at me and chased me. My father was a muscular man. He owned a hardware store." The boy was warned, and other than that incident, there was little tension in his town.

"What were your parents like?" I asked. Mr. Friedman thought for a moment, settling on a story to tell.

Sometime in the early years of World War II, a tall German major came into his father's store. "He was wearing medals," Mr. Friedman recalled, and a familiar impish tone crept into his voice. "Where did he get the medals? He must have bought them, because he sure wasn't born before World War I." The major addressed Mr. Friedman's father as "dirty Jew" and explained that everyone in town said his was the only hardware store that could supply all the building materials he needed to construct two military camps nearby, and at a reasonable price. "The major said he was sorry he couldn't go elsewhere, and kept saying, 'dirty Jew,'" Mr. Friedman said with a sad chuckle.

"Father sat and listened, and asked what was needed. When the major gave him a list, he said he could handle it and it wouldn't be a problem. The major said that it had better not be a problem, and left without saying goodbye.

"On Shabbat, my father was wearing his shtreimel and ka-

pota (a special Shabbat hat and coat) and was going to shul. The major's sergeant showed up and said that they had an emergency and needed materials. My father turned to my mother and said, 'Give the keys to the maid, and tell her to let the sergeant take what he needs.' Then he went to shul.

"When he came home from shul, he didn't mention the matter again. At the beginning of the month my father wrote an invoice, and my sister went to the military command and handed in the invoice. Two days later, the major came into the store and started yelling, saying that the invoice wasn't right." Mr. Friedman sighed. His father hadn't charged for the items the sergeant took on Shabbat. As the major screamed and threatened his life, his father reluctantly wrote up an invoice—overlooking the many items the sergeant had stolen—and presented the official invoice to the major. After the major paid his bill, Mr. Friedman recalled, his father gave the money straight to charity.

When Mr. Friedman was 14, his father was taken away to perform slave labor for a military camp on the Russian front.

They never saw each other again. "Before my father left," Mr. Friedman recalled, "he took me aside and said, 'I have a job for you, but you have to swear you won't tell anybody.' Then he showed me a list with half a dozen relatives' names and addresses, and the amount he gave them for Shabbat every week."

His father never used to eat breakfast with the family on Thursdays, and now at last young Mordechai understood why: Thursday morning was when his father went door to door distributing funds. As his father was taken away, Mr. Friedman hid the precious list under his mattress. "On Thursday, I took the list out, but I realized I didn't know where to get the money. I went to my mother and told her the story. She started laughing, and I asked what was so funny. She said, 'You think that living with your father so many years, I didn't know what he was doing every Thursday morning? But he wanted to keep it a secret, so I let him.'" His mother gave him the money, and he was able to continue the tradition for a little while longer.

The Jews of Sárospatak were deported in 1944. Mr. Friedman doesn't often talk of the events of the following year. "We went to the ghetto for a week or two," he said. The truth of what was happening to European Jewry dawned on him slowly then. "Everybody found



Mr. Friedman (Mordechai was his given name) was born in Sárospatak, a Hungarian town of two thousand people, a quarter of whom were Jewish. His family was chassidic. He had an older sister, Sarah.

out the same way. You could smell it in Auschwitz." Sent to Auschwitz, Mr. Friedman was assigned to a section next to a small area where Jewish men, women and children lived in almost normal conditions. "They had normal clothes, and the children played with toys," Mr. Friedman recalls. He later found out that this was an area set up for the Red Cross, to show humanitarian observers that all was well in Auschwitz so that they could reassure the world that Jews there were treated well.

From Auschwitz he was sent to be a slave laborer in Dachau. "I worked at the BMW factory," Mr. Friedman recalled. "At that time they made airplane engines. I worked on huge bomb shelters (for the factory workers), because the Americans were bombing them day and night. When we saw an American plane we would sometimes jump up and down, asking them to bomb us and put us out of our misery." His characteristic humor emerging, Mr. Friedman's voice took on a wry tone. "One day I had a little

pleasure, if you can call it that. I was sent to Munich. It was really ruined then, late in the war. A police officer said, 'Hook up a hose to the fire hydrant,' and people lined up with bottles." Mr. Friedman's job was to hold the spigot, but it was the middle of winter and bitterly cold.

"My hand was shaking, so I spilled the water on the Germans, so I made for them a little problem," he said with a bitter laugh.

After the war, and his experiences fighting for Israel, Mr. Friedman met his wife, Lilly, in the early 1950s. He saw her on a street corner of the Israeli city of Netanya, and she was so beautiful, he explained, that he had to find out who she was. I found myself nodding in agreement. Even in old age, when I knew her, Lilly was lovely, with beautiful sparkly blue eyes. My reverie about Lilly was broken as Mr. Friedman continued to tell me about Lilly's horrific experiences in the Holocaust. I had not realized that she had a twin. She and her sister became subjects of Mengele's gruesome twin experiments. The sisters survived, but the rest of their large family was wiped out. Lilly lived in London after the war, and told Mr. Friedman that she had to go back home. "I said that we would get married first," he recalled, and they did.

Eventually settling in Chicago, Mr. Friedman and Lilly lived frugally. They both worked hard, and seldom recalled their early lives or wartime experiences. They never told people that through the decades they

were quietly setting aside funds to one day honor their families and memorialize those they had lost.

Finally, on December 21, 2014, Mr. Friedman's dream came true. The Torah he had commissioned was ready, and on a cold, brisk day, dozens of friends joined him as he led the Torah to its new home. His beloved wife didn't live to see this day, but Mr. Friedman made sure that her memory was honored by the new scroll, too. Dedicated to his parents, Mendel and Raizy, and to his wife, Lilly, Mr. Friedman's Holocaust Torah was his answer to all that was taken from him. "I didn't want to pay for a plaque or a stone, something that people never look at or use," he explained. For years, he had considered ways to best remember his loved ones. A Torah scroll is used each week, he said. It seemed a warmer, more fitting way to remember them.

Mr. Friedman insisted on carrying the scroll himself, up the synagogue driveway and into the building. A normally wry, taciturn man, he delivered a brief address to the congregation. But as he placed the Torah in its cabinet, he wept. At long last, his beloved parents, his beloved wife, were coming home. (Chabad.org)

Yvette Alt Miller, Ph.D., is a mother and adjunct professor of political science living in Chicago. She is the author of Angels at the Table: A Practical Guide to Celebrating Shabbat (CONTINUUM, 2011).

המוסד למען קדושת חיי אדם

In the Eyes of the Lord, Location Does Not Determine Value



For you fashioned my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you because I am awesomely made, wonderfully; your works are wonders - I know this very well. My bones were not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes could see me as an embryo, but in your book all my days were already written; my days had been shaped before any of them existed. Psalm 139

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## Parshas Vaera – The Role of Faith

By: Rabbi Shlomo Katz

We read near the beginning of our Parashah

that Moshe spoke Hashem's words to Bnei Yisrael, "but they did not heed Moshe, because of shortness of breath and hard work." R' Tzaddok Hakohen Rabbinowitz z"l (1823-1900; Chassidic Rebbe in Lublin, Poland) explains this verse in light of the Midrash Rabbah, which records that, when the young Moshe lived in Pharaoh's palace, he convinced Pharaoh that slaves work more efficiently when they are given one day of rest each week. Pharaoh instructed Moshe to implement this idea, and Moshe arranged for Bnei Yisrael to have Shabbat as a day off. Later, at the end of last week's parashah, we read that Pharaoh decreed (5:9), "Let the work be heavier upon the men and let them engage in it; and let them not pay attention to false words," i.e., he took away their day of rest so they would have no time to think about redemption. R' Tzaddok writes: Shabbat itself is a source of Emunah / faith.

Thus, when Shabbat was taken away from Bnei Yisrael, their Emunah was lost as well.

This requires explanation, however, for Moshe Rabbeinu himself attributed the initial failure of his mission to his having a speech impediment ("aral sefatayim"). R' Tzaddok notes that Moshe used different words to describe his speech impediment in last week's Parashah ("kev-ad peh"). Hashem had already promised to heal that condition, but now Moshe's speech was impeded for a different reason. As Bnei Yisrael's leader, his ability to speak effectively to Pharaoh was

proportional to the level of Bnei Yisrael's Emunah. That, as noted, was tied to their Shabbat observance. (Pri Tzaddik: Vaera 7)

"Elokim spoke to Moshe and said to him, 'I am Hashem. I appeared to Avraham, to Yitzchak, and to Yaakov as Kel Shakkai, but with My Name Y-K-V-KI did not make Myself known to them.'" (6:2-3)

R' David Tevel z"l (1792-1861; rabbi of Minsk, Belarus) explains as follows: At the end of last week's Parashah, Moshe exclaimed (5:23), "From the time I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your Name, he did evil to this people, and You did not rescue Your people." Moshe was wondering: What is giving Pharaoh the courage to resist Hashem's warnings and reject the signs that I performed? Moshe concluded: According to the natural order that G-d created, a nation cannot be subdued until its guardian angel is subdued. Pharaoh's stargazers have told him that the angel of Egypt has not been subdued; therefore, Pharaoh is confident that Egypt cannot be subdued either. Thus, Moshe's question at the end of last week's Parashah meant: Since the guardian angel of Egypt has not yet been subdued, what is the point of my going to Pharaoh? Why did You send me?

R' David Tevel continues: In our verse, Hashem explains to Moshe why his reasoning is incorrect. It is true, says Hashem, that I created a natural order to which the gentile nations are subject. Within that system, each nation has a guardian angel, and no nation can subdue another nation unless the former nation's guardian angel first subdues the latter nation's guardian angel. That natural order is alluded to by the Divine Name "Shakkai" (Shin-



Moshe convinced Pharaoh that slaves work more efficiently when they are given one day of rest each week. Pharaoh instructed Moshe to implement this idea, and Moshe arranged for Bnei Yisrael to have Shabbat as a day off. Photo Credit: Wikipedia

Dalet-Yud), one of the Divine Names that indicates that G-d is the Master of nature. When He reveals Himself as Shakkai, G-d can cause a nation's guardian angel to be subdued, which, in turn, allows that nation's downfall to occur "naturally."

But, says Hashem, I have another Name, "Y-K-V-K." When I reveal Myself by that Name, the rules of nature no longer apply. Likewise, the rule that a nation's guardian angel must fall before the nation itself falls is not in effect when I reveal Myself by the

Name Y-K-V-K. Therefore, it is irrelevant that Pharaoh saw that Egypt's guardian angel was still at the height of its power; I will still subdue Egypt and take Bnei Yisrael out of Egypt. (Derashot Bet David, Drush 12:40)

"The fish that is in the water shall die..." (7:18)

R' Eliezer David Gruenwald z"l (1867-1928; Hungarian rabbi and Rosh Yeshiva) asks: Why was this included in Moshe's warning to Pharaoh? Obviously, if the Nile turns to blood, all of the fish will die!

He explains: Pharaoh's magicians ostensibly mimicked the plague and turned water to blood. However, what they actually did was an illusion; the water did not turn to blood but just looked like blood. Anticipating that, Moshe warned Pharaoh, "When I turn the Nile to blood, it will be the real thing and the fish will die." (Keren LDavid)

"Egypt could not drink water from the River, and the blood was throughout the land of Egypt." (7:21)

Midrash Rabbah relates that even if an Egyptian and one of Bnei Yisrael drank from the same cup, the Egyptian would find the liquid to be blood, while the Jew would have water.

R' Yaakov Aryeh Guterman z"l (1792-1874; Chassidic Rebbe in Radzimin, Poland) notes that this miracle involving water foreshadowed the splitting of the Yam Suf. He writes: The Gematria of "Mayim" / "water" equals 91 (40+10+40, plus 1 to represent the whole word). This is equal to the combined Gematria of the Divine Name "Y-K-V-K" (a Name that denotes Divine mercy) plus the Divine Name spelled "Aleph-Dalet-Nun-Yud" (a Name that denotes Divine justice). Both in the case of the Plague of Blood and in the case of the Splitting of the Sea, the water was an instrument of mercy to Bnei Yisrael and an instrument of justice to the Egyptians. (Bikkurei Aviv)

"Entreat Hashem — there has been an overabundance of G-dly thunder and hail..."

"Moshe said to him, 'When I leave the city I shall spread out my hands to Hashem; the thunder will cease and the hail will no longer be...'

"Moshe... stretched out his hands to Hashem; the thunder

and hail ceased and rain did not reach the earth.

"Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder ceased, and he continued to sin; and he made his heart stubborn, he and his servants." (9:28-29, 33-24)

Why, in fact, did Pharaoh continue to sin? R' Shlomo Kluger z"l (1784-1869; rabbi of Brody, Galicia) explains:

Pharaoh seems to have been more afraid of the thunder than of the hail; thus, he asked Moshe (verse 28) to pray first that the thunder stop and only then the hail. Moshe agreed to Pharaoh's request (verse 29) and Hashem accepted Moshe's prayer (verse 33).

However, Hashem had His own calculations as well. Midrash Rabbah teaches that the hail that was in the process of falling when Moshe prayed for the plague to end stopped in mid-air and remained there for future use (see Yechezkel ch.13). Hashem did stop producing thunder when Moshe prayed for the thunder to end, and hail when Moshe prayed for the hail to end. But, the last hailstones never reached the earth; rather, they gathered in the atmosphere. Thus, from Pharaoh's vantage point, the hail stopped (i.e., it stopped reaching the ground) while he could still hear the thunder. The hail appeared to end first (verse 34). Thus, Pharaoh believed that Moshe's prayer had not been answered; rather, the whole incident seemed to have been a coincidence, so there was no reason for Pharaoh to change his ways.

Perhaps, concludes R' Kluger, Hashem did this so that Pharaoh could continue to rationalize his refusal to let Bnei Yisrael go. (Imrei Shefer) –

(TORAH.ORG)

## Parshas Vaera – The Art of Comfort and Consolation

By: Rabbi Osher Jungreis

To find the proper words on such occasions is never easy, but that was the challenge of Moshe Rabbeinu as he addressed his brethren who were suffering in Egyptian bondage. At the beginning of the parsha, G-d charged Moshe with the mission of announcing to the Jewish people that the time of their liberation was at hand. HaShem used four different expressions in describing their redemption. "I will take you out from under the burdens of Egypt; I shall rescue you from their service; I shall redeem you with great miracles; I shall take you to Me to be a people, and I will bring

you to the promised land" (Exodus, 6).

Despite this awesome promise however, the Jewish people remained dispirited and incapable of absorbing the good news. The explanation for this reveals the nature of suffering and how one may best comfort those who are hurting. When someone is in pain, he does not have the patience or the ability to comprehend that which will occur in the future. His agony is so overwhelming that he is aware only of the here and now. In his pain he cannot contemplate the future. Therefore, the Almighty G-d instructs Moshe and Aaron once again and commands them to bring the children of Israel forth from Egypt (Exo-



At the beginning of the parsha, G-d charged Moshe with the mission of announcing to the Jewish people that the time of their liberation was at hand.

dus 6:13) teaching us that when someone is in distress, we have to extend immediate help. Thus, when encouraging those who have lost hope, let us not content ourselves with visions of the future. Rather, let us do something

concrete to relieve their pain and infuse them with hope.

In this same passage, G-d also instructs Moshe to be gentle and patient with the people—a basic ingredient that is required of all leaders. The Midrash teaches

that HaShem told Moshe and Aaron: "My children are often stubborn and recalcitrant. They are quick to anger and troublesome. It is under these conditions that you should undertake to accept leadership over them." This teaching has bearing, not only for leaders, but for each and every one of us. In every family, there are situations in which one's patience is sorely tried. At such times, we must exercise forbearance, remain calm and respond with strength and dignity.

This passage has yet a third interpretation. It is written in the Talmud that it was at this moment of crisis for the Jewish people that G-d told Moshe to command the nation regard-

ing the emancipation of slaves that would take place once they entered the promised land. At first glance, this appears far-fetched. The nation is in bondage, so what possible relevance can such instructions have? But the Torah is teaching us that it is precisely when you are in the throes of suffering that you must make a commitment to banish suffering—to convert that pain into a healing experience. It is in this spirit that the Torah calls upon us to remember our bondage and exodus from Egypt (Zeicher l' Tziyas Mitzraim) and relate to the stranger, the widow, the orphan, and all those in need with compassion and love.

(WWW.HINENI.ORG)

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# COVID-19 Variant Disrupts Holiday Travel But Not Shopping

**By: Bryan Gallion & Paul Wiseman**

The latest COVID-19 variant is upending holiday plans for tens of thousands of travelers — but it didn’t do much damage to holiday shopping.

Airlines canceled hundreds more flights Sunday, citing staffing problems tied to COVID-19, as the nation’s travel woes extended beyond Christmas, with no clear indication when normal schedules would resume.

But shoppers shrugged off the omicron variant, and holiday sales rose at the fastest pace in 17 years, according to one spending measure.

Omicron is likely to slow the economy’s unexpectedly strong rebound from last year’s coronavirus recession by disrupting travel and discouraging some consumers from venturing out. The variant could also add more heat to already simmering inflation by forcing shutdowns at factories and ports, delaying shipments and driving up prices.

“A full reopening of the U.S. economy will be delayed yet again,” said Robin Brooks, chief economist at the Institute of International Finance, a trade group of financial firms.

But it’s not yet clear how deep the hurt will go or how long it will last.

For now, the variant is playing havoc with travel. More

than 1,100 flights entering, leaving or flying within the U.S. were called off, according to the flight-tracking website FlightAware. That figure was up from nearly 1,000 on Saturday. About 130 flights were already canceled for Monday.

Delta, United, JetBlue and American have blamed omicron for staffing shortages that forced cancellations.

“This was unexpected,” United spokesperson Maddie King said of the variant’s effect on staffing.

Globally, airlines scrapped more than 2,700 flights as of Sunday evening, nearing the more than 2,800 cancellations the day before, FlightAware’s data showed. The site does not say why flights were canceled.

JetBlue scrapped 11% of its flights Sunday. Delta and United both canceled 5%, according to FlightAware. The three airlines canceled more than 10% of their scheduled flights on Saturday.

Mason Herlocker waited Sunday at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey to pick up his girlfriend, who was coming in from Paris. Her flight was delayed for four hours.

It took her five hours to get a COVID-19 test the day before to enter the U.S. She’s visiting for three weeks, and Herlocker said he fears that she will get stuck here if she doesn’t have a negative test result before trying to return home to France.

Worried about his parents

getting sick, Herlocker recently got a booster shot and encouraged others to get theirs, too. He said he doesn’t believe an end to the pandemic is in sight.

to worry about if we take all the precautions, and I think we will be entering a situation where we just live with” the virus, he said.

Despite omicron, American



Travelers queue up at the south security checkpoint in the terminal of Denver International Airport Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021, in Denver. Airlines canceled hundreds of flights Sunday, citing staffing problems tied to COVID-19 to extend the nation’s travel problems beyond Christmas. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

“I’m of the opinion that this is the new normal,” Herlocker said. “I don’t foresee (the virus) going away any time soon.”

Aneesh Abhyankar flew in from Atlanta on Sunday and was waiting for a flight to India.

Neither of his flights was delayed or canceled, but he said news of the omicron variant encouraged him to push up his travels to ensure he could get to his destination. He said face masks and vaccines are likely to become ingrained in everyday life for the foreseeable future.

“I don’t think we have much

consumers appeared undaunted. Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks all kinds of payments, including cash and debit cards, reported Sunday that holiday sales had risen 8.5% from a year earlier, the biggest annual gain in 17 years. Mastercard SpendingPulse had expected an 8.8% increase.

The results, which covered Nov. 1 through Dec. 24, were fueled by purchases of clothing and jewelry. Holiday sales were up 10.7% compared with the pre-pandemic 2019 holiday period.

After omicron hit, some consumers shifted their spending to e-commerce, but sales stayed strong.

“I feel really good about how the season played out,” said Steve Sadove, senior adviser to Mastercard and former CEO of Saks Inc. “When people feel a little bit uncomfortable, you’ll see a little bit of a pickup in online and a little bit of a slowdown in store performance.”

Sadove said consumers are “learning to live” with what COVID-19 throws at them.

“You’re coming out of 2021 with quite a bit of consumer momentum,” he said.

Also Sunday, the nation’s top infectious disease doctor acknowledged that he was frustrated with the limited supply of COVID-19 tests.

Demand for tests has risen amid the omicron surge. “We’ve obviously got to do better,” Dr. Anthony Fauci said in an interview that aired Sunday on ABC’s “This Week.”

“I think things will improve greatly as we get into January, but that doesn’t help us today and tomorrow,” Fauci said.

Fauci said he was pleased with evidence that omicron causes less severe illness for most people. But he warned against complacency because the rapid spread of the disease could “override a real diminution in severity,” because so many more people could get infected.

There are still many questions about how bad the omicron

**“A full reopening of the U.S. economy will be delayed yet again,” said Robin Brooks, chief economist at the Institute of International Finance, a trade group of financial firms.**

surge will be in the U.S., Johns Hopkins infectious disease specialist Dr. Amesh Adalja said Sunday.

“There are multiple signals showing decreased severity. But the problem is, we have many high-risk individuals that are not vaccinated in some parts of the country. And there are hospitals in those regions that already are dealing with a lot of delta patients,” Adalja said.

Meanwhile in Europe, France recorded more than 100,000 virus infections in a single day for the first time in the pandemic. COVID-19 hospitalizations have doubled over the past month as omicron complicates the French government’s efforts to stave off a new lockdown. The country’s overall death toll stands at more than 122,000.

President Emmanuel Macron’s government planned emergency meetings for Monday to discuss the next steps. Some scientists and educators have urged delaying the post-holiday return to school or suggested re-imposing a curfew.

(AP)

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# Fauci: Vaccine Mandate for Domestic Air Travel 'Would Be Welcome'

By: Jack Phillips

White House COVID-19 adviser Anthony Fauci said the U.S. government should consider vaccine requirements for domestic air travel.

Currently, the United States mandates that non-citizens coming into the country present proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 within 24 hours of departure. Travelers who took the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson vaccines, as well as shots approved by the World Health Organization, are authorized under federal health guidelines.

But Fauci said that those requirements should be expanded.

"If you're making a requirement for vaccination for people to get on planes who are coming into the country, that's understandable," he told MSNBC on Monday.

"You don't want to bring more cases into the country. But if you're talking about requiring vaccination to get on a plane domestically, that is just another one of the requirements that I think is reasonable to consider," Fauci added, without explaining why he believes the requirement is a "reasonable" one.

Critics of mandates and vac-



White House COVID-19 adviser Anthony Fauci said the U.S. government should consider vaccine requirements for domestic air travel. Photo Credit: AP

cine passport systems say they create a two-tiered society of vaccinated and unvaccinated that denies rights and privileges to unvaccinated individuals, even though data has shown fully vaccinated people can contract and transmit COVID-19.

Meanwhile, recent studies have shown that the Omicron COVID-19 variant—which the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has said is now the dominant strain in the United States—presents milder symptoms and fewer hospitalizations than the Delta strain. Some officials, including Fauci, have said that because of Omicron's high degree of transmissibility, it may lead to more and

more hospitalizations in the coming days.

"You know, there's requirements that you might want to get if you want to get into college, where you want to go to a university or you want to work in certain places," Fauci also told the network about a potential airline mandate.

He did not say whether he recommended other White House officials to implement a vaccine requirement for domestic air travel. The Epoch Times has contacted the administration for comment.

"When you make vaccination a requirement, that's an-

SEE FAUCI: VACCINE MANDATE, PAGE 40

# Fully Vaccinated Holland America Cruise Ship Turned Away After Covid-19 Positive Tests Reported

By: Jack Phillips

A Holland America Line cruise ship was denied entry to a Mexican port over the weekend after health officials discovered positive COVID-19 cases on board.

The Mexican state of Jalisco's health department confirmed in a statement to media outlets that 21 crew members on the Koningsdam cruise line tested positive for the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, which causes COVID-19 when it arrived in the tourist resort city of Puerto Vallarta.

"Through onboard testing, we have confirmed that a small number of fully-vaccinated crew on Koningsdam tested positive for COVID-19," Holland America wrote in a statement on Saturday to news outlets. "All are showing mild or no symptoms and are in isolation. Close contacts have been quarantined out of an abundance of caution."

According to the Jalisco health department, the entire crew was tested for COVID-19 before departure on Dec. 19. Only one positive case was discovered.

"Due to a last-minute notification from authorities that guests would not be permitted ashore, the ship departed and will return to San Diego to arrive in two days as scheduled," Holland America also said in a statement provided to KNSD-TV.



A Holland America Line cruise ship was denied entry to a Mexican port over the weekend after health officials discovered positive COVID-19 cases on board. Photo Credit: iCruise.com

"Guests were notified and continue to enjoy activities aboard the vessel."

Holland America's website says that patrons and staff have to be fully vaccinated, as well as provide a negative COVID-19 test in order to board its ships. The cruise line also mandates that guests and staff have to wear masks inside.

The Epoch Times has contacted Holland America for comment.

Several days before that, Royal Caribbean's Odyssey of the Seas did not disembark at two Caribbean locations, according to the cruise operator in a statement to The Epoch Times.

"Royal Caribbean International's Odyssey of the Seas will not visit Curacao or Aruba as planned," the cruise line told The Epoch Times. "The decision was made together with the islands out of an abundance of

caution due to the current trend of COVID-19 cases in the destinations' communities as well as crew and guests testing positive on board—55 crew members and guests, representing 1.1 percent of the onboard community."

"The cruise sailed with 95 percent of the onboard community fully vaccinated."

It's not clear if the Omicron variant triggered the outbreak on either of the two ships. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that as of last week, Omicron made up 73 percent of all COVID-19 cases.

Meanwhile, recent studies have signaled that the new CCP virus strain causes milder symptoms and has resulted in far fewer hospitalizations worldwide. Only one death has been associated with the new strain in the United States—in Houston, Texas. (THE EPOCHTIMES.COM)

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# NBA Congratulates Yeshiva U Maccabees for Incredible 50 Game Winning Streak

**By: Marvin Azrak**

Lechaim!  
Through their constant winning ways and inspiring play, the Yeshiva University Maccabees men's basketball team have uplifted many orthodox households across the New York area and Jewish basketball fans worldwide. They have created memories that will last a lifetime in the Jewish Sports hall of fame, and officially cemented themselves in Men's college basketball lore on December 15th by defeating New Jersey city university 93-86 for their 50th straight victory. Despite being a D3 team, that feat alone has garnered praise from NBA and ESPN social media. Ryan Turell and Gabriel Leifer have been the main showstoppers for the Macs, who haven't dropped a game since November 9th, 2019, 72-60 against Occidental College. The team also owns a 23 home game winning streak and is 23-0 in Skyline Conference play during this stretch.

While all of this is impressive, basketball fans are wondering whether it will mean anything beyond this season. Well, Ryan Turell believes this is just a stepping stone towards becoming the first orthodox Jewish player in the NBA. However, while many in his corner are optimistic, that will happen, and he

would become the first player drafted out of D3; if so, Turell has constantly put religion first, even declining D1 offers to be at Yeshiva University. "I realized that my Jewish lifestyle would be sacrificed to play Division I basketball. It just wasn't worth it to me," Turell said. The decision has allowed the All-American to become a global phenomenon amongst Jewish basketball fans who are now striving to have the demeanor and competitive fire that the 6'7 unicorn does when he's on the court. "He's 6'7, but moves like he's 6'2" said an Illinois Wesleyan reporter, who YU will host on Thursday in supposedly their toughest test in the last two years. The team's average winning margin throughout this 14-0 start to the 2021-22 season is more than 29 points, and only twice have they won by fewer than 10 points, according to the publication Curbed. In addition to that, 38 of their 50 wins over the winning streak have come by double digits.

As for the other All-American in Leifer, it seems as if this will be his last dance as the Lawrence, NY native is married, in graduate school along with his current studying at YU, and also has a side job with an accounting firm in Pricewater Coopers, who hired him last summer.

After four years of playing basketball at Davis Renov

Stahler High School for Boys, in Woodmere, Gabe became, in the words of his DRS coach, Avrum Stein, who coached Gabe and the Wildcats to a 33-0 2016 senior year campaign, "the

most dominating player" in the Metropolitan Yeshiva High School Athletic League. Gabriel Leifer eclipsed the 1,000th point plateau while also setting school records in assists and rebounds with 21 double doubles and 4 triple doubles in the 29-1 campaign that was halted due to

ing unity on the playing surface is one of the many reasons why they've been able to draw many eye-balls across the basketball world. Yeshivah wasn't always a powerhouse in their own conference, as before coach Elliot Steinmatz (Father of Diamond-backs prospect Jacob Steinmatz who became the first Orthodox Jew to be drafted this past Summer) took the reins in 2015, the last winning season produced was in 2007. But Steinmetz's recruiting style is quiet but deadly to the opposition, convincing Jews to start for him rather than be a benchwarmer for a Division I team and waste their college basketball potential.

In order to become a national phenomenon, Yeshivah first put their own conference on notice when they pushed through to the Skyline championship game in 2018. They had entered the depths of a respectable team from 2015-2017 with playoff appearances exploded with a 13-7 conference record (15-10 overall) to earn the #4 seed led by sophomores Simcha Halpert, Daniel Katz, Gabriel Leifer, Bar Aluf, and Tyler Hod. Just so proud of these guys to come from where we did and earn a home playoff game," Yeshiva University head coach Elliot Steinmetz said at the time. "We are so young, but growing up so fast. It's really been fun to watch."

Facing off against Mount St Mary's in round one, Yeshivah sported their trademark resolve with an 80-67 win while overcoming a 17 point deficit with a 45-28 spurt in the second half after cutting the Knights lead down to 13 just before the break. In the semifinals, Yeshivah knocked off #1 seed Farmingdale State, 77-75 in overtime, to advance to their first final in program history. Three days later, the Macs made history with an 87-81 triumph of a Purchase team that was 12-0 at home that season. Simcha Halpert went for 25 points and earned championship game MVP honors.

The journey wasn't finished as from there they advanced to the NCAA tournament where the youngsters met their match in #11 ranked York College falling 81-67. Still, there was much to be proud about and it was only a sign of historic things to come.

In the season that followed, Yeshivah welcomed freshman Ryan Turell and coasted (16-4 conference record, 19-7 overall) to another Conference championship game where they fell to Farmingdale State College in a playoff rematch 81-75 despite a combined 47 points from Turell (20 points) and Leifer (27 points).

SEE NBA CONGRATULATES YESHIVA, PAGE 39



The Yeshiva University Maccabees officially cemented themselves in men's college basketball lore on December 15th by defeating New Jersey City University 93-86 for their 50th straight victory. Photo Credit: YouTube

COVID-19 with the Macs in the last 16 of March Madness.

Last season, the tournament was canceled again but Yeshivah used the streak as inspiration and managed to squeeze out seven more wins before beginning this season on a 14 game win streak to reach the historic benchmark of 50.

The ability to balance religion and basketball with not all 15 players being orthodox yet respecting one another and show-

## NY Sports Update – End of the Year Games & Scores

**By: Marvin Azrak**

### KNICKS: 15-18

I was there when the Knicks were Steph Curry's "carpet" at Madison square Garden as he knocked down the record-breaking 2,974th three pointer in the first quarter, to seize the evening in a 105-96 tailor-made Warriors win. The team would rebound and defeat the Rockets on the road 116-103 led by seven three's from Immanuel Quickly and 15 point from Miles McBride, but the good vibes were short-lived as they dropped a decision to the Celtics 114-107 at TD Garden despite 29 points from Kemba Walker who came back being eliminated from the rotation as many Knicks are out due to COVID -19. The past week offered reprieve in the schedule for the Knicks, as the downed the Pistons 105-91, at home before wasting another Herculean effort from Walker, as he dropped 44 points in a 124-117 loss to the Wizards. But on Saturday, revenge filled the air as New York took advantage of a Trae Young-less Hawks team 101-87 led by Walkers third career triple-double.

### NETS: 21-9

Brooklyn defeated the Raptors with a seven man rotation last Tuesday on the back of a



NBA player Stephen Curry. Photo Credit: AP

career-high 31 point performance from Patty Mills and 34 from KD. The winning went onward when they took down the 76ers 114-105 two nights later on the back of another 34 from the MVP-front runner in Kevin Durant. They took precautionary measures and rested the duo while also not having Kyrie Irving, James Harden and Nic Clayton due to COVID protocols in a 100-93 loss to the five win Orlando Magic. However, they did regained their footing a week later when Harden came back and poured in 36, to go along with Mills 34 and an empathic Nic Claxton dunk over LeBron James to stymie the Lakers comeback efforts in a 122-115 road win. Brookwin remains first in the East.

### RANGERS 19-7-4

Before the NHL took a week off due to COVID overwhelming the league, the bluehirts dropped games to the surging Avalanche (4-2) and Golden Knights (3-2 in SO) sandwiched in between an ugly 3-2 win over the league-worst Arizona Coyotes in the desert. When the team returns to play, the Rangers will welcome back Igor Shesterkin and Artemi Panarin so they should be just fine.

### ISLANDERS: 8-12-6

They're still dead last in the division, and it's unutterable why even after getting their players back.

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# Covid Pandemic May Be Nearing End, Suggest Experts

Because Omicron is very infectious and not aggressive in causing serious illness, it may lead to natural herd immunity and the post-pandemic era.

By: Abigail Klein Leichman

The Omicron variant is not a disaster and may even signal the end of the pandemic crisis, say two prominent physicians affiliated with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Speaking to international reporters on Zoom through Media Central, Prof. Zvika Granot and Prof. Amnon Lahad said the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus is more infectious and less aggressive than previous variants — which is a good sign.

“Usually, viruses that are very aggressive are not very infectious, and viruses that are very infectious are not very aggressive,” said Granot, who heads a developmental biology and cancer research lab at the university.

“We have been living with corona for two years and we’ve seen new variants appearing. By definition, a new variant is more infectious than the previous variant,” he explained.

“Omicron is indeed more infectious than Delta and is overtaking it — but is it more aggressive? This still needs more investigation but at least according to the World Health Organization, there were no deaths from the Omicron vari-

ant worldwide as of last week.

“That will certainly change, but if you look at this from the pandemic point of view the end of corona will come when we have a variant that is very infectious with very mild symptoms.”

Moreover, said Granot, “because it’s very infectious, a lot of people will get infected but they’ll have a runny nose and maybe fever for a couple of days and then go back to their normal lives. When this happens, the vast majority is infected and gets over it and develops true herd immunity.”

“So in some respects, Omicron may be the light at the end of the tunnel.”

## ‘Not a catastrophe’

Lahad said that the media and government officials speak of a disaster coming because they see rising numbers of positive PCR tests in countries including Britain and South Africa.

“If we look deeper, we see that while there is an increase in positive PCR tests, the number of severe cases is going down or is at least stable,” said Lahad, who chairs HJU’s Department of Family Medicine, the National Committee for Primary Care and the Jerusalem district of the Clalit HMO.

“In South Africa, we see the

same thing even though their vaccination rate is much lower than Israel’s, and we are starting



Is Omicron the light at the end of the tunnel? Photo by Kasuma from Pexels

to see the same thing in Britain. So we have a catastrophe more in public opinion than in what is really happening in the emergency rooms and primary care clinics.”

Given that nearly 60 percent of those who test positive for Omicron have no symptoms, said Lahad, “it seems it’s not such a disaster.”

He said the challenge is not how to control the disease — which Israel has done well

through immunizing those most at risk — but to get over the Omicron wave “without causing collateral damage by closing the economy and closing schools and disrupting regular life.”

60.

“About 75% of the people in Israel who got infected with this [Omicron] variant were fully vaccinated, including a booster shot,” Granot pointed out.

He was referring to the initial two doses of the Pfizer vaccine and a third (booster) dose recommended to people vaccinated five or more months previously when it became apparent that the initial immunity wears off in six months.

A recent study showed the first two doses ineffective against Omicron and the third dose somewhat more protective.

Granot said it makes no sense to introduce a fourth shot of a vaccination that was formulated for the original coronavirus strain.

“This virus has mutated and changed and is very different now. It is not as effective as it could be if we had an updated vaccine from Pfizer or Moderna,” he said.

Granot also emphasized that a fourth dose has not been approved by the US FDA.

“No one tested the consequences, benefits or side effects of taking the fourth vaccine. Anyone who takes that shot is experimenting on himself and that is totally unacceptable,” he said.

Lahad added that he believes it is more important to focus on convincing those who are not vaccinated, or not fully vacci-

**“Usually, viruses that are very aggressive are not very infectious, and viruses that are very infectious are not very aggressive,” said Granot, who heads a developmental biology and cancer research lab at the university.**

nated, to get their initial doses.

“Forcing people already vaccinated to have a fourth dose makes no sense,” Lahad said. “We are doing it backwards — intervention and then research. If we were in a disaster situation it could be justified but I don’t think that’s the case.”

## Living with the coronavirus

The two physicians said we may be nearing the post-pandemic stage when we will live with the coronavirus as we do with strains of influenza and other viruses.

“Overall, the way I see it is that the Omicron variant is a step closer to the end of this pandemic,” said Granot. “We just have to wait and see.”

Lahad recommended that people continue masking and keeping distances, “but the main thing is that if you feel even a little sick, stay home and don’t go to the supermarket, your workplace, or school.”

(ISRAEL21C.ORG)

Read more at: Israel21C.org



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# EXPLAINER: How Will Biden's COVID-19 Test Giveaway Work?

By: Darlene Superville

President Joe Biden says the federal government will buy half a billion COVID-19 rapid test kits and distribute them free of charge to people to use at home. But despite the high public demand for tests, it will still be several more weeks before these kits are available to be shipped. The administration is still working on details for how the program will work.

## DOES THE GOVERNMENT HAVE THE TESTS?

Not yet. As of this week, the departments of Defense and Health and Human Services were "executing on what's called an accelerated emergency contract," the White House press secretary, Jen Psaki, said. The contract is expected to be signed soon.

## WHEN WILL THE TEST KITS BE DELIVERED?

The first delivery is expected in early January. All 500 million kits will not arrive at the same time but instead will be delivered in batches.

## MY DRUGSTORE DOESN'T HAVE ANY TESTS. HOW CAN I GET A FREE KIT FROM THE GOVERNMENT?



A rapid COVID-19 test is taken, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020, in Salt Lake City. President Joe Biden says the federal government will buy half a billion COVID-19 rapid test kits and distribute them free of charge to people to use at home. Delivery of the first batch of the 500 million tests isn't expected until early January 2022. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer, File)

You'll go to a new government website to request a kit, but the site won't be functional until after the first batch of test kits have been delivered, Psaki said. She said the process was being handled that way to avoid creating more confusion for the public. But the idea is that anyone who wants a test kit would log onto this website to request one.

"We're obviously not going to put the website up until there

are tests available," Psaki said.

## WHICH HOME TEST WILL I GET?

It's unclear. But Psaki noted that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved several different brands of rapid home tests that are currently on the market.

## WILL I BE LIMITED TO ONE TEST OR CAN I REQUEST MULTIPLE?

To be determined, Psaki said.

## WHY IS BIDEN BUYING THESE TEST KITS?

It represents an acknowledgment by the president that the administration needs to do more to increase access to COVID-19 testing, which is an important tool to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

In cases where infected people show symptoms or not, testing is the only way to find out if they have the virus so they can avoid being out and about and potentially spreading disease.

But demand for test kits soared as the holidays neared and people grew eager to test themselves and their families before traveling and as the easily transmissible omicron variant spread rapidly in just a few

SEE EXPLAINER: HOW WILL BIDEN'S, PAGE 40

# Medicaid Enrollment Skyrockets in NY During Covid Pandemic

By: Rusty Brooks

The New Post reported exclusively that the number of state citizens who have received Medicaid has skyrocketed during the COVID pandemic. The Post reported:

The soaring enrollment — spurred by job and income loss — exploded by nearly 1.5 million claimants statewide since the pandemic hit, the figures show.

In January 2020, about 6.1 million of the state's 19.8 million residents were enrolled in the program. That's nearly 40 percent of the Empire State's 19.8 million residents.

Add in other state health programs, from Child Health Plus to the Essential Plan, and it comes to 8.4 million New Yorkers, or 42 percent of the population, getting aid, the Empire Center reports.

This is a negative statistic and proves incredible rising poverty in the state.

Medicaid is the largest source of funding for medical and health-related services for people with low income in the United States, providing free health insurance to 74 million low-income and disabled people (23% of Americans) as of 2017, as well as paying for half of all U.S. births in 2019. It is a means-tested program that is



The number of New York state citizens who have received Medicaid has skyrocketed during the COVID pandemic. Photo Credit: foodstampsebt.com

jointly funded by the state and federal governments and managed by the states, with each state currently having broad leeway to determine who is eligible for its implementation of the program. As of 2017, the total annual cost of Medicaid was just over \$600 billion, of which the federal government contributed \$375 billion and states an additional \$230 billion.

States are not required to participate in the program, although all have since 1982. In general, Medicaid recipients must be U.S. citizens or qualified non-citizens, and may include low-income adults, their children, and people with certain disabilities. Along with Medicare, Tricare, and Camp-VA, Medicaid is one of the four government sponsored medi-

cal insurance programs in the United States. Medicaid, along with Medicare, are administered by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in Baltimore, Maryland, summarized by Annual Review of Public Health.

The Post editorial Board points out:

New York has long been a national leader, both in terms of the number of enrollees and how much it spends on them — around \$75 billion last year, including federal, state and local funds. And as the Empire Center also notes, more New Yorkers above the poverty line qualify for Medicaid than those under it. Even as New York's

SEE MEDICAID ENROLLMENT SKYROCKETS, PAGE 40

# Survey: Holidays Place Extra Stress on People Managing Type 2 Diabetes

By: ADA Staff

Nearly half (49%) of people living with type 2 diabetes said managing their condition during a typical fall and winter holiday season is more difficult than other times of the year, according to a new survey for the American Heart Association and American Diabetes Association.

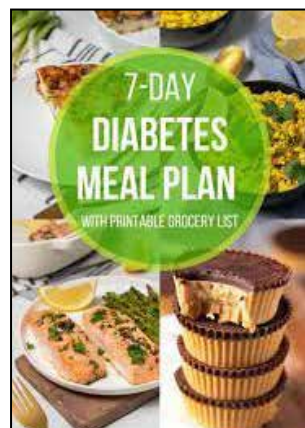
The online survey of more than 1,000 U.S. adults 45 and older completed by real-time market research platform Thrivable for the associations' joint Know Diabetes by Heart initiative found staying on track with health goals was the top holiday season concern among respondents (28%), followed by finances (15%) and safe gathering due to COVID-19 (14%).

Managing diabetes year-round is critical for preventing serious complications

like heart disease, stroke and chronic kidney disease, which are leading—and largely preventable—causes of disability and death for people living with diabetes.

Regarding nutrition, nearly three-quarters (73%) of respondents reported having a lot or complete control over their dietary choices during a normal week, compared to just over half (52%) during a holiday week, such as Christmas.

"The holidays provide challenges to staying heart healthy for many people, but especially for those managing conditions closely tied to daily nutrition, like type 2 diabetes," said Robert Eckel, M.D., FAHA, immediate past president of medicine and science for the American Diabetes Association, past president of the American Heart Association and an endocrinologist at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. "Even if you don't



Nearly half (49%) of people living with type 2 diabetes said managing their condition during a typical fall and winter holiday season is more difficult than other times of the year. Photo Credit: diabetesstrong.com

have diabetes yourself, it's important to create healthy environments for our friends and family members who do."

Know Diabetes by Heart

Ambassadors, who share their experiences living with type 2 diabetes to help others, offer their tried-and-true tips for keeping health goals on track through the holidays.

## Take control of the kitchen

"I do some of the cooking for holiday meals so I know there will be something good for me to eat," said Lupe Baraza of Plano, Texas.

## Prepare before your next holiday event

"If I go to a party, I bring something I know I can eat or make sure the host knows my needs and has something for me," said Jane DeMeis of Fairport, New York. "If I go somewhere where I have not shared my health concerns and don't want to for some reason, I simply say I am on a diet."

Sarah Bryant of Elgin, South Carolina, said her strategy is

to eat before she goes to a party. "If I'm full, it lessens my chances of eating things that are bad for me."

## Travel smart

"To reduce stress and stay on track when traveling, I bring along snacks and food that will keep my body happy and my health goals in check," said Annette Lartigue of Trenton, New Jersey. "Otherwise, I will over or under eat what is available and inevitably lose my ability to manage my type 2 diabetes."

Bryant recommends preparing yourself ahead of time for things you can't control while traveling and looking for a silver lining. "When I'm in a long line at the airport I'll put on my noise cancelling headphones and listen to music or podcasts I enjoy."

## Create new healthy traditions

"Our family has adopted a rule that we only prepare individual portions of dessert," Lartigue said. "It helps everyone eat less and feel better."

Anthony Wilson of Virginia Beach, Virginia, said exercise is on his family's menu. "We always make time to exercise after dinner. Even if it's a short walk, anything is better than nothing."

## Make your home a safe zone

"If it's not supposed to go in my mouth, it's not coming in my house," Lartigue said. "My will power does not need to be challenged at home."

Find additional tips, recipes and information about managing the link between type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke at KnowDiabetesbyHeart.org.

SEE SURVEY: HOLIDAYS PLACE EXTRA STRESS, PAGE 40

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NATIONAL CARDIOLOGY & HEART FAILURE  
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## Congestion Pricing Complaints to Surge, MTA Not Prepared

By: Don Driggers

Imagine getting charged twice for going through a toll or, as happens quite often at the cashless tolls here in New York City, you don't even get charged at all. And then, you find yourself with a fine, but the Metropolitan Transit Authority has taken so long to fine you, that it has already been sent to collections in just a matter of weeks! According to The New York Post, "Transportation Authority officials have done little to study the underlying causes of thousands of toll complaints and are playing catch-up to develop a "modern information system" by the start of Central Business District Tolling in 2023". The Post further reports that

MTA Bridges and Tunnels "does not have a reliable way to detect systemic issues," IG Carolyn Pokorny said. "This shortcoming puts the agency at risk of being ill-prepared to handle future CBD tolling complaints efficiently." Photo Credit: mtaig.state.ny.us



the "failure to accurately record license plates by the MTA's contractor Conduent. Yet MTA management's summary reports of complaints completely missed the prevalence of human error, the report said". The matter is further complicated because, as The New York Post reports,

The MTA signed a new \$246 million contract with Conduent earlier this year — but opted to keep the company out of its customer service operations.

Tolls are necessary to keep our roads, bridges, and tunnels in good repair, but no one is happy when tolls keep rising and the quality of our roads we trust to keep us safe is degrading.

Instead, customer service for MTA bridge and tunnel tolls will be handled through a \$122 million contract with Faneuil. The MTA has also purchased software that will allow it to track and analyze all of the complaints it receives, according to its official response embedded in the IG report".

The New York Post goes on to report that even when the MYS attempts to collect toll fees, it often fails, as evidenced by its recent report that it has apparently lost out on over 56 million in toll fees over 22 months, for a variety of reasons. The Post states, MTA Bridges and Tunnels was unable to send bills for six million crossings through from September 2019 to June 2021 — leaving millions of dollars uncollected, the comptroller's office said in a letter to the MTA following up on three-year-old audit into its cashless tolling. A huge chunk of the lost revenue — \$33.9 million — stemmed from the MTA and its vendors not having agreements with other states' DMVs to access vehicle registration information, particularly for temporary plates.

Tolls are necessary to keep our roads, bridges, and tunnels in good repair, but no one is happy when tolls keep rising and the quality of our roads we trust to keep us safe is degrading.

**"This shortcoming puts the agency at risk of being ill-prepared to handle future CBD tolling complaints efficiently."**

## Biden on Covid: "There is No Federal Solution"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Facing the new coronavirus variant omicron, officials are now scrambling to ramp up vaccination rates in a population that has so far been slow to roll up their sleeves.

"We are going on the offensive with the issue of vaccinations," said Avraham Rubinstein, the mayor of Bnei Brak, the country's largest ultra-Orthodox city, as was reported by the AP.

The AP reported that Blumenthal, who himself is ultra-Orthodox, said the Health Ministry recently held a conference at the country's largest hospital, inviting prominent rabbis to converse with doctors about the importance of the vaccine. The head of the government's coronavirus advisory panel has repeatedly met with important religious figures, urging them to spread the word on vaccines.

It has been one year since COVID-19 vaccines became available, yet vaccine reluctance persists even as deaths mount and the highly contagious omicron variant spreads around the globe, according to the AP report. An unconventional cadre of people has stepped up to promote vaccination with efforts that traditionally have been the realm of public health officials.

Israeli officials have appealed to the community's prominent rabbis, who serve as arbiters on all matters, to promote vac-

cination, according to the AP report. They are deploying mobile clinics. And they are beating back a wave of lies about the vaccine that has washed over parts of the community.

The vaccination rate is low in part because half of the ultra-Orthodox population is under 16 and only recently made eligible for vaccination. Also, many ultra-Orthodox were already infected or believe they were and don't think they need the vaccine, as was reported by the AP.

The outreach effort has had mixed success. AP reported that officials hope to raise the vaccination rate with a new mobile-clinic campaign at religious schools and a media blitz stepping up pressure on parents to vaccinate children.

Israel was one of the first countries to vaccinate its population late last year and the first to give booster shots, according to the AP report. But the campaign has lagged in recent weeks and hundreds of thousands of people remain unvaccinated or without a booster as the specter of an omicron surge looms.

While vaccination rates for the second dose among the general population hover around 63% and the booster at 45%, in the ultra-Orthodox community the number is around half of that, as was reported by the AP. The community's immunity

shoots up somewhat when the 300,000 or so of those who are known to have recovered are included, but Israel's Health Ministry recommends those who were infected to get at least one shot if six months have elapsed since the infection.

In other countries, there was a setback for the Belgian government. An advisory body on Tuesday suspended a Cabinet-ordered closure of part of the cultural sector — saying that new coronavirus restrictions imposed on theaters are unreasonable.

Under new restrictions that took effect Sunday, movie houses, concert halls and art centers were ordered to shut their doors. Some stayed open in protest. The order came despite the assessment of the scientific committee advising the government that going to such places poses no extra risk to public health.

In an emergency procedure, the Council of State ruled that measures concerning theaters were "not proportionate," and didn't provide enough motives to "understand why going to cultural sector performance venues was particularly dangerous for public health."

The Council of State is an advisory body that has legal powers to overturn government decisions it considers unlawful.

(SOURCES: NYP, AP)

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8 Reasons China Should

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

China's Dubious Olympics Record

China has faced criticism and suspicions of cheating in multiple Olympic Games.

the 2008 Olympics it hosted. The gymnastics scandals were isolated cases separate from the revelation by former Olympics doctor Xue Yinxian in 2017 that as many as 10,000 people were involved in a years-long doping conspiracy in the communist country.

China Is Terrible at Hockey, Arguably the World's Most Popular Winter Sport

Despite all that alleged cheating, China barely managed to get its men's ice hockey team into the Olympic Games it itself is hosting.

could endanger those competing outside. The Times citing Communist Party officials insisting they were ready for any potential weather condition, but Beijing's notoriously cold and long winters - Beijing issued its first major snowstorm alert last month - make it a questionable, at best, venue for a guaranteed safe athletic experience.

Uncontrolled Coronavirus Threats

The Chinese coronavirus that has fueled an ongoing pandemic originated in China and continues to wreak havoc there, largely the result of poor management on the part of the Communist Party.

officials are now demanding that locals not travel outside of their home regions for the Lunar New Year holiday in much of the country. Beijing has banned Communist Party officials from leaving to avoid the poor optics of government officials fleeing a coronavirus hotspot as the Winter Games begin.

(BREITBART.COM)

Who's Who in Eric Adams'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

outlets. The NYC City Council approved the legislation for the MOECM in June 2021.

perience in government affairs and communications, and the digital, print, and broadcast media industries, Mr. Bayona is also the founder of Grass-

roots Strategies (grassroots. nyc), a consulting firm based in New York City.

alism at the New York Daily News. He started as community reporter for the Spanish weekly Hora Hispana.

secretary for the Administration for Children's Services.

Bayona holds an M.A. in Journalism from the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism - Urban and Interactive reporting concentrations - and graduated Cum Laude from the CUNY Baccalaureate Program in Journalism and Political Science from Baruch College.

Chaim Walder, Author of Jewish

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

attorneys told Haaretz, "Our client absolutely denies all claims of inappropriate behavior on his part, and especially that which was published in the article.

out the years Walder fought for children who suffered violence and abuse, "and as a result of this, there were several who joined up together with the goal of hurting him, and we have proofs of some of these foolish attempts to incriminate our client."

"This article represents a direct continuation of this [issue]. which is sourced in a false claim filed against him many years ago and which was closed as quickly as it was filed."

read in part, "'I have gone to summon Yehuda Silman and Shmuel Eliyahu to a Din Torah in heaven. I have come to the conclusion that in the world of lies I have no chance of proving my innocence."

about the things which I was best at and which I dedicated my life to- supporting and protecting children. "I am grateful to all those who believed in me: May you be blessed! To all those who didn't I say that even if you have given up on me, do not give up on my books.

build and to repair the world! I never wrote without first having a desire to bring good to the world and its inhabitants.

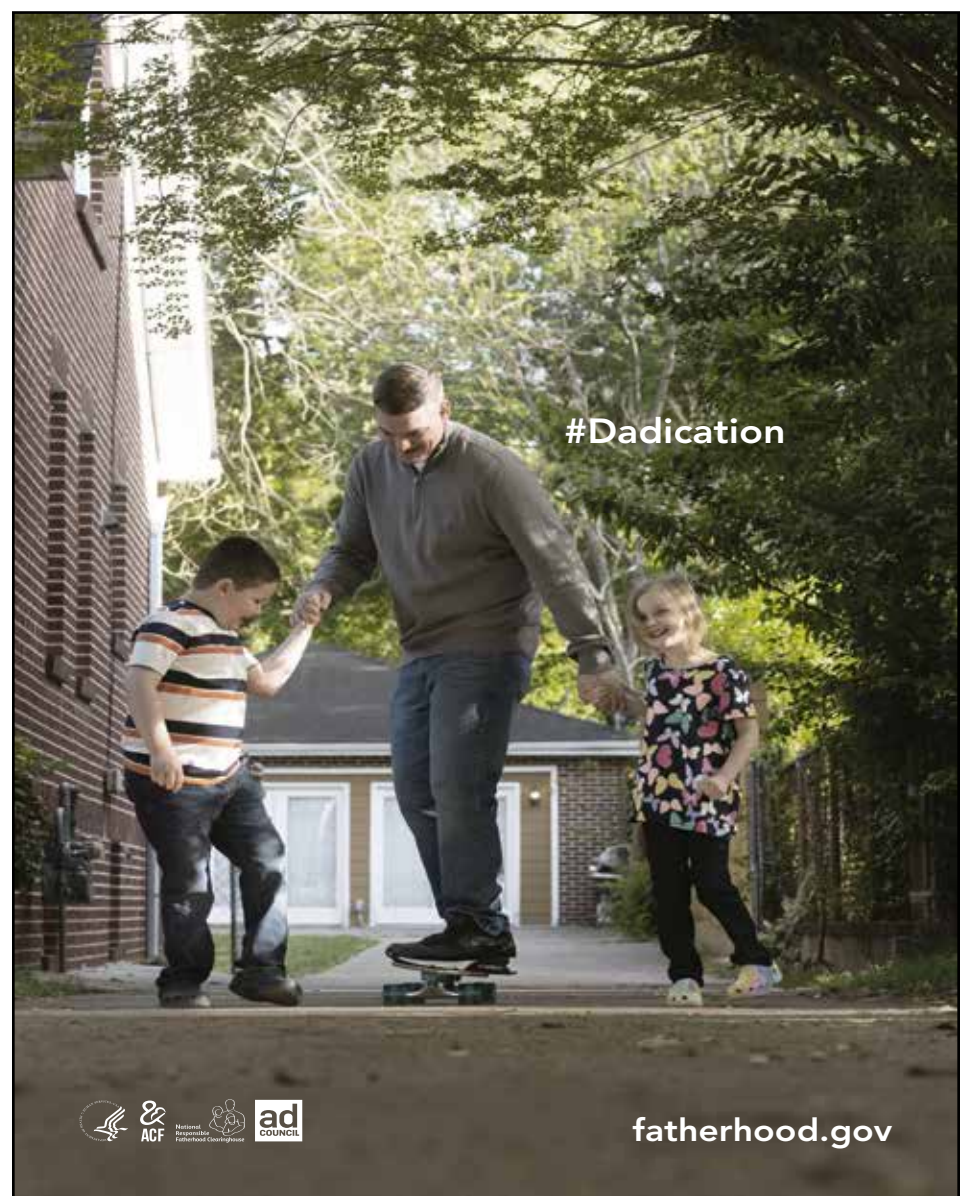
NBA Congratulates Yeshiva

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

The Macs haven't lost a conference game since then and excluding the season opening loss in 2020, have yet to drop a tilt period in a stretch that has included two NCAA tournament wins as well.

champions." Gabe: "We're aiming for much more than this."

despite rendering their previous perfection meaningless. "We don't want to go down like Gonzaga did" said a YU player, "We want to finish the job".



PM Bennett: Israel Ready to Attack

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

Obstacles that have taken the form of new demands made by the Iranian envoy, and not a mutual process of concessions as one would expect.

allow Tehran to export its crude oil, Associated Press has reported. Speaking to reporters in Tehran, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said Iran wants the upcoming round of talks to focus on achieving the

"point where Iranian oil is being sold easily and without any barriers and its money arrives in Iran's bank accounts."

Israeli Mayor Removes 'Shameful'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

er political intervention in the artistic content displayed in the museum," and appealed to the court to force him to rehang the photo until the court hears the case.

as the exhibit was already gone. He added sternly, "The city will never fund with its residents' money the harming or shaming of any person, sector [or] holy place, even if this means changing the nature and subject matter of the museum."

elements are waging a belligerent attack against the city's sovereignty and its right to decide what should not be done with its own money. We will neither flinch nor give in," he wrote.



fatherhood.gov

## It's Time to Abolish

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

ish the teachers unions.

To that end, Tim Draper, a venture capitalist from California, is trying to put an initiative on the ballot in 2022 that would abolish all public employee unions in the state. Draper maintains that "...some public employee unions have used their money and power to protect bad employees engaged in unspeakable conduct and others who have completely failed at their jobs."

To be continued.

(FRONTPAGEMAG.COM)

*Larry Sand, a former classroom teacher, is the president of the non-profit California Teachers Empowerment Network – a non-partisan, non-political group dedicated to providing teachers and the general public with reliable and balanced information about professional affiliations and positions on educational issues. The views presented here are strictly his own.*

## The Tyranny of the Woke

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

ilization. We are in the midst of creating a society of woke conformists. Conformists, by definition, lack creativity; they are easy prey for the demagogues coming from either the political left or right; and they ultimately serve to "dumb down" and corrode a civilization from within. They are the apotheosis of a certain illness, a corrosive rot within a society.

As the late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks said, "The hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews. Antisemitism is only secondarily about Jews. Primarily it is about the failure of groups to accept responsibility for their own failures, and to build their own future by their own endeavors. No society that has fostered antisemitism has ever sustained liberty or human rights or religious freedom. Every society driven by hate begins by seeking to destroy its enemies but ends by destroying itself."

(JNS.ORG)

*Sarah N. Stern is Founder and President of the Endowment for Middle East Truth, EMET, an unabashedly pro-American and pro-Israel think tank and policy institute in Washington, D.C.*

## NY Sports Update – End of the Year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

### JETS(4-11) & GIANTS(4-11)

Both stink and both fanbases are now rooting for a higher draft pick than the other. The Jets did notch a win on Sunday though, as feel-good story Zach Wilson defeated #1 pick Trevor Lawrence and the Jaguars 26-22 at MetLife Stadium. The Giants have lost four straight and 7 of 10, yet find the fact Daniel Jones has been out due to a neck injury as an excuse to keep him around next year despite the teams pitiful record. I'm a Giants fan and the one Of many desires I have this offseason is for a new GM. Get Dave Gettelmen outta here!!

### BILLS 9-6:

They're back everyone! A 33-21 victory in Foxborough in where they thoroughly outclassed Mac Jones and the Patriots has Buffalo in control of their own destiny in the AFC East, with the Falcons(7-8) and Jets awaiting them in the seasons final two games. Things are looking up for the back to back "best fanbase in the league" champions.

## Fauci: Vaccine Mandate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

other incentive to get more people vaccinated. If you want to do that with domestic flights I think that's something that seriously should be considered," Fauci said.

During a recent interview with ABC, President Joe Biden said that vaccine requirements for domestic air travel have been considered. But Biden said that "recommendation I've gotten is not necessary."

COVID-19 is the illness caused by the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus.

(EPOCHTIMES.COM)

## Gazan Factions Reject Israeli

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

heroic prisoner exchange deal"

Hamas warned that Israel's return to the policy of assassinations of its leaders will provoke a widespread response in the wake of media reports of an Israeli intention to target Saleh Aruri, who is in charge of all Hamas' military activities. Iyad al-Bazoum, a spokesman for the Ministry of the Interior and National Security in the Gaza Strip, said that "the Israeli occupation is trying to attack the defense establishment in the Gaza Strip and we are aware of all the attempts."

(TPS)

## PM Bennett: Israel Plans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Some 50,000 people live in the Golan Heights — roughly half Jewish Israelis and half in Druze Arab villages that formerly were part of Syria. Some of the Druze population opposes Israeli control. The Israeli development plan aims to double the Jewish population in the coming years.

Shortly after making his remarks, Bennett's office said he was notified that his daughter tested positive for the coronavirus, prompting the Israeli leader to leave the Cabinet meeting and head into self-isolation at home.

Bennett's office said he had tested negative in a rapid test taken before the meeting and that Bennett's daughter, 14, was vaccinated.

Israel's education minister, Yifat Shasha-Biton, missed Sunday's meeting after her daughter tested positive for COVID-19. Her office said she had gone into self-isolation while she awaited the results of a coronavirus test.

(AP)

## Judge Upholds Ruling Against

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

for the prosecution of a partisan political agenda," Locke said. "Today's ruling affirms that the New York Times' behavior was irregular and outside the boundaries of law."

Wood also pushed back against the idea that the order endangered press freedoms, writing in his ruling that "steadfast fidelity to, and vigilance in protecting First Amendment freedoms" can't infringe on the fundamental rights of attorney-client privilege or privacy.

He wrote that while aspects of Project Veritas, including its journalistic methods, may be of public interest, its attorney-client communications are not.

News organizations, including The Associated Press, supported the Times and asked the court not to impose what they called an unconstitutional prior restraint on speech in a friend of the court brief filed last month by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

(AP)

## NY Banks Urged to Waive Transfer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

the waiver. The New York State Department of Financial Services plans to compile a list of all financial institutions that agree to waive such fees and make the list available to the public by posting on its website."

The department created in 1997 the Holocaust Claims Processing Office to "help Holocaust victims and their heirs recover assets deposited in banks; unpaid proceeds of insurance policies issued by European insurers; and artworks that were lost, looted or sold under duress." The HCPO has received claims from 46 states and 40 countries to date, and has helped secure "over \$182 million in offers for bank, insurance, and other losses." The office has also assisted in settlements involving 179 cultural objects.

(JNS.ORG)

## Jewish Student Attacked

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"Yesterday, two Jewish men were verbally & physically attacked in Brooklyn," she tweeted. "This is abhorrent and unacceptable. Antisemitism & all hate has no home in New York."

The state police Hate Crimes Task Force is "assisting the investigation" she added.

According to the New York Police Department, hate crimes doubled in New York City in 2021 to over 500 cases, with Jews being the victims over 36% of the time. This, when the Jewish population the city is approximately 12% of the total, as per 2016 statistics.

(WORLDISRAELNEWS.COM)

Read more at: worldisraelnews.com

## NY Gov Hochul Vetoes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

as shown in multiple data reports on our website."

Blooming Grove Supervisor Robert Jeroloman complained that the bill was simply aimed at preserving open spaces and denied that it had any discriminatory intent.

"New York sends a new message today that there is no support for these types of actions here in New York, and you will be judged and convicted without a hearing by what your neighbors and others are doing instead of what you have done," he told the Times Herald.

"All our town was asking for is moral accounting and a proper balance in regards to our own environment and farmland."

(WORLDISRAELNEWS.COM)

Read more at: worldisraelnews.com

**You Too Can Help in the Battle Against the Spread of Anti-Semitism. Contact the Jewish Voice Educational Fund at: [jvef@gmail.com](mailto:jvef@gmail.com) to find out how!!**

## EXPLAINER: How Will Biden's

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

weeks to become dominant strain in the U.S.

Biden's promise of 500 million test kits is in addition to the administration's earlier pledge to send 50 million rapid tests to community health centers across the country.

### HOW MUCH WILL THE PROGRAM COST?

The purchase will be paid for with money from the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill Biden signed into law in March, the White House said. The exact cost will be known soon.

### IS THERE ANOTHER WAY TO GET A TEST KIT FOR FREE

Biden said in a speech Tuesday that, starting in January, private insurers will cover the cost of at-home testing. So people will have the option of buying tests at a store or online and then seeking reimbursement from their health insurance provider.

The government will also provide access to free at-home tests for people who may not have health insurance, Biden said.

(AP)

## Medicaid Enrollment Skyrockets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

poverty rate declined, its Medicaid rolls grew by 1.4 million from 2010 to 2019.

Big Apple residents on the Medicaid rolls increased by more than 1 million over the past decade, the Post reported.

"Due to enrollment of individuals who lost their employment or had lower income because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Medicaid enrollment is expected to grow to 7,594,000 individuals by March 2022, an increase of 633,000 individuals from March 2021," the DOH report said.

The state's mammoth \$82.5 billion Medicaid program is by far the most costly in the nation. The costs are split between the federal, state and local governments.

## Survey: Holidays Place Extra Stress

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

### Survey Methodology

The Know Diabetes by Heart national survey was conducted by Thrivable among 1,079 U.S. adults ages 45+ living with type 2 diabetes between Oct. 21 and Nov. 1, 2021, using an online survey of Thrivable's proprietary Health Panel Database. All contiguous U.S. States were represented. Know Diabetes by Heart used the Thrivable research platform to glean insights from people living with diabetes for use as comparative data and to pose additional questions related to managing health, especially during the holidays. For detailed survey results, contact Jayme. Sandberg@heart.org. (American Diabetes Association – diabetes.org)

## Israel Needs to Fight to Maintain

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

However, while certain professions will disappear, new ones will be created, according to the report. An increase in activity demanding knowledge of technology and human qualities such as creativity and socializing is to be expected.

"The scope of these changes, as well as the speed of their occurrence emphasize the need to adapt the skills provided to students by the education system – the future workers – as well as the skills of current workers, to those changes," stated the report.

The report was based on data gathered from 2018-2019, implying that trends found will only have intensified during the pandemic.

To emphasize this, the report stated that the employment crisis caused during the outbreak only highlights the importance of investing in the unemployed and in today's students, in order to increase their employment capabilities in an everchanging reality.

Lastly, the report encouraged greater inclusion of populaces only minorly represented in the hi-tech workforce, such as women, Arabs and the ultra-Orthodox.

(WORLD ISRAEL NEWS)

Read more at: worldisraelnews.com

## UN General Assembly Gives

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

an immoral automatic majority at the Council whitewashes a genocidal terrorist organization that deliberately targets Israeli civilians while turning Gaza's civilians into human shields. This while depicting as the 'guilty party' a democracy acting legitimately to protect its citizens from thousands of indiscriminate rocket attacks," he stated.

"This travesty makes a mockery of international law and encourages terrorists worldwide," he added.

(WORLD ISRAEL NEWS)

Read more at: worldisraelnews.com



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### ENTERTAINMENT 9044

LOOKING FOR FUN RECREATION FOR YOUR KIDS? Visit iPlay America in Freehold, NJ 732-577-8200 LM0228

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### BANKING 9046

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### LEGAL NOTICES 9047

Need to Publish a Legal Notice? Call 212-920-6700 Ext. 20 or Email: press@jewishvoice.com LM1227

### TRAVEL 9048

TRANSPORTATION COMPANY PROVIDES CHARTER BUSES From Downtown Brooklyn To Delaware. Low Rates. Call 302-312-8767 LM0121

Traveling to the Poconos? Visit PoconoMountains.com to plan your getaway today! LM1227

### CAR DEALERS 9049

Looking for a new or used car? Go to Premier Ford, 5001 Glenwood Road, Brooklyn, NY 718-258-7200 LM0110

### AUTOMOTIVE 9050

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MERCEDES S550 SEDAN 2008. AWD, 56,000 miles. Garaged only. Like new. Black saddle leather interior. Original owner. Original price: \$128,000. Asking \$25,990 OBO. 718-520-1365 LM0121

### CAR LEASING 9053

Looking to Lease a Car? Contact Leasefax at 877-989-1500 LM1227

### VALET PARKING 9054

Need Valet Parking? Contact Vintage Valet 718-891-5449 LM0103

### WINE & SPIRITS 9055

Looking for a liquor store? Go to Sherry-Lehmann Wine and Spirits Merchants, 505 Park Ave, New York, NY 212-838-7500 LM0110

### CEMETERY PLOTS 9065

PINELAWN CEMETERY PLOT FOR TWO. Garden of Normandy North. \$6,700 Negotiable. 516-872-1508 LM1203

UNION FIELD CEMETERY (ORTHODOX). 82-11 Cypress Ave, Queens, NY 11385. 7 graves. Asking \$5,500 per grave. Contact Alan or Jo-Ann Kagan at: A.Kagan@lycos.com or Call 904-886-4439 LM1126

PINELAWN MEMORIAL PARK, LI. 3 double plots (6 burials) in a quiet section, block 4, section 31. \$20,000. Chris 352-638-1180 or email saroj52@comcast.net LM1119

BETH DAVID CEMETERY- ELMONT, NY. Three plots for sale. \$6,000 each. \$15,000 for all 3 plots. Call 215-858-6137 LM1119

MOUNT HEBRON CEMETERY. Lot 60, Reference 2, Plot 21 and 22. Asking \$7,000 neg. 631-427-8792 LM0211

### TUTORING 9926

CHEMISTRY REGENTS PREP. REMOTE/IN-PERSON. Certified Chemistry Teacher. Quiz/ Test Review. Group Rates Available. Long Island Only. Mrs. Fish: 516-734-6511 LM0107

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NURSE'S AIDE/COMPANION with wide experience. Gentle, reliable, and also good company. Vaccinated. Excellent references, all verifiable. Please call Grace: 917-499-9520 LM0121

CERTIFIED & EXPERIENCED HHA seeks job caring for the elderly. New York area. Call 347-444-9660 LM1203

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Looking for a great dentist? Go to Oleg Nashtatik, DDS, DICOI, PC, 2006 Avenue M, Brooklyn, NY 718-692-3333 LM0604

### APPLIANCES 9940

Looking to buy new appliances? Go to AJ Madison, 3605 13th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 718-732-4900 LM0110

### LIGHTING 9941

Looking to buy new lighting fixtures? Call 718-853-7440, 718-436-6402 or 718-234-3393 LM0110

### PLUMBING & HEATING SUPPLIES 9942

Looking to buy plumbing or heating supplies? Go to Island Plumbing & Heating Supply, 1956 McDonald Ave, Brooklyn, NY 718-998-7000 LM0110

### WINDOWS & DOORS 9943

Looking to buy new windows or doors? Go to Brooklyn Window & Door Corp, 1889 McDonald Ave, Brooklyn, NY 718-627-6400 LM0110

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Looking for a Locksmith? Call Multi Locksmith 718-377-0007 LM0110

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**STORE FOR RENT. ON AVE U IN BROOKLYN. PLEASE CALL NORMA AT 718-998-7600** LM1112

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Respected Newspaper is seeking an Administrative Assistant, immediately for their South Brooklyn office. If you are tech-savvy, resourceful, able to work independently and in a group setting, please email us your resume today! Responsibilities will include handling heavy call volume, forwarding calls and messages accordingly, data entry on excel, customer service amongst other administrative duties. Desired qualities will include excellent phone etiquette, strong communication skills and a proven ability to multitask. Ideal candidate will be a quick learner and looking for a long term position. This role will require you to work on-site, following Covid restrictions. Please forward us for your resume to be considered: jobs@jewishvoice.com LM0521

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**MANAGER WANTED. For Kidswear shop in Gravesend area of Brooklyn. Experience Required. Please Call 917-697-5779** LM1112

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**REAL ESTATE**

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES FOR RENT**

**BROOKLYN** 1050

**DENTIST OFFICE FOR RENT ON OCEAN AVE & AVE J**  
CALL 718-236-3199 LM0903

**QUEENS** 3050

**MIDDLE VILLAGE, QUEENS STORE FOR RENT.** On Metropolitan Ave. Prime retail location. 500 square feet. \$2,350 per month with basement.  
Call Owner 718-644-4445 LM1210

**BRONX** 4050

**3060 EAST TREMONT AVE: STORE FOR RENT.** Top retail location, high pedestrian traffic, 3000sf, can be divided. For details: Rafi- 718-364-1400 or 347-495-0614

**COMMERCIAL / PROPERTIES FOR SALE**

**BROOKLYN** 1060

**MIDWOOD.** Mixed use building for sale. Amazing, high traffic location on Nostrand Ave & Ave J. Income producing property with 4 commercial storefronts & 3 residential apts. Over \$176,000 in rent roll. Asking \$3.2 Million. Call Century 21 Homefront 718-252-6060 LM0121

**CROWN HEIGHTS.** 3 story building for sale. Brokers with clients welcome. For more information, Call 917-520-7175 LM1224

**LONG ISLAND** 6060

**AIRPLANE HANGER FOR SALE**  
Easthampton Airport. Professionally maintained. Corner condo with windows and skylights. Heating unit placed on high platform. Occupied by twin Baron B55 also for sale, together or separately.  
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**NEW YORK STATE** 7060

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**OUT OF STATE LAND FOR SALE** 8060

**LITCHFIELD COUNTY, CT. 2.20 ACRE APPROVED HOME SITE.** Great views, very private and rear property borders a 10 acre Land Trust parcel. The Five Points Center For The Visual Arts is nearby. Price is \$129,000. Call Bob 845-546-2553, or Email: rabomber@aol.com LM0917

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

**BROOKLYN APT FOR RENT** 1010

**E.23 ST/ AVET & U:** Fully renov 3BR, 1.5 baths, LR & DR with marble floors. 2nd floor. Credit check nec. Call 917-287-0670 LM0204

**MILL BASIN:** 3BR, 1 bath, 2nd floor. \$2,400 including gas & heat. Call or Text 718-208-8286 LM0121

**BED STUY/ CLINTON HILLS.** Extra large, beautiful 1BR. \$2,000/month + security. New Stainless Steel Appliances. No Realtors. Call Owner 646-533-5923 LM1217

**BROOKLYN APT FOR SALE** 1020

**MADISON.** 1 bedroom co-op apt on 5th floor in elevator building. Stainless steel appliances. New hardwood floors & updated bathroom. Maint includes all utilities. Near buses & trains. Asking \$199,000. Call Century 21 Homefront 718-252-6060 LM0121

**FOR SALE- CO-OP.** 1170 Ocean Parkway. Excellent Location. New Paint Job. 2 Bedrooms, 2 Full Bathrooms. 4 Spectacular Ocean Parkway Views. 8th Floor. 24 Hrs Doorman. \$540K. Call Or Text Bob 917-922-6101 LM0211

**QUEENS APT FOR RENT** 3010

**ST. ALBANS, QUEENS.** Nice furnished 1BR apt in quiet family home. Close to N6, N24, 277, Q2 & Q110 buses. Close to LIRR & E & F trains. No pets, no smoking. 1 month's rent & 2 month's security. \$1,125/ month. Owner 347-676-7121 or 347-837-7271 LM0121

**BRONX APT FOR RENT** 4010

**BRONX.** 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom & 3 bedroom apts available for rent. Section 8 welcome. Call Broker 718-842-7658 or Call Ernest 718-838-4650 LM1126

**LONG ISLAND APT FOR RENT** 6010

**WEST HEMPSTEAD: SPACIOUS Apt.** Lower Level, All Included, Separate Entrance, Backyard, EIK, Full Bath. Near All/ LIRR. \$1,900. 917-640-3028 LM0204

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**BROOKLYN HOUSE FOR SALE** 1040

**SEAGATE HOUSES FOR SALE.** 2 Family, \$870,000. ALSO, Mother/ Daughter, \$975,000. Broker Terry 718-372-0380 or 646-510-4762 LM0107

**QUEENS** 3040

**JAMAICA, QUEENS.** Newly renovated 1 Family House, 4BR, 2.5 baths, fin bsmt, with private entrance & garage. \$689,999. Call Broker Gabriella 516-853-8949 LM0911

**BRONX** 4040

**CITY ISLAND.** 2 Family Brick Detached, 3BR over 3BR with fin bsmt, 1 car parking. \$875K. Call Owner Ari 914-817-2432 LM1217

**L.I. HOUSES FOR SALE** 6040

**EAST MEADOW- For Sale By Owner.** "Forever Home." Bargain at \$700K. All offers considered. Walking distance to elementary school, close to highways. Call Kevin for appt. 516-902-6265 LM1203

**OUT OF STATE** 8040

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA.** Beautiful corner home on over-sized lot, centrally located on cul-de-sac in Central Phoenix, blocks from the 51 highway & within walking distance of shuls. Property has a pebble tec swimming pool with waterfall in a landscaped backyard with Piestewa Peak views. 5BRs, 3 baths with many upgrades & recent remodels, incl 2 new A/C & heating units. Master BR has 2 walk-in closets & newly remodeled bath. 2 full kitchens (1 Pesach), each with LG appliances. Large sep walk-in pantry with lots of storage. Newly constr laundry rm with lots of shelving, storage & washer/ dryer. Loc near popular hiking trails & just minutes from Downtown Phoenix. \$885,000. Shaina 602-326-1043 LM0128

**FLORIDA** 9080

**POMPANO BEACH, FL CONDO.** Emerald Tower, 2 bedrooms + den, large balcony, direct ocean view, deeded beach. Totally remodeled, W/D in unit. \$549,900. Call Mike, Owner 954-257-2227 LM1119

**Boynton Beach, Florida!** Enjoy the Sunshine State all year long on the Intracoastal watching the boats go by. This open floor plan 2 bed/2 bath condo is in an active community. There is a heated pool, club house, rocking chairs on the Intracoastal, gym and many more activities. Private front door, washer /dryer on same floor and an elevator. No pets. 55+. Call/Text Marleen Rogers Coldwell Banker Boynton Beach 631-816-3904

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MAY THE EARTH HEAR THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH

**We're Hiring!**  
The Jewish Voice is looking to hire a circulation manager

**Responsibilities are as follows:**

- Oversee all subscription fulfillment, renewals and distribution programs for three home-delivered weeklies, with goals of maximizing revenue, penetration and reach.
- Manage all aspects of sales and marketing, including promotions and advertising campaigns for home delivery and single sales.
- Generate print orders, oversee postage, manage compliance reports and provide customer service
- Manage all distribution data, billing, renewals, contractor payments and route lists.
- Ensure excellent delivery service for all products, including delivery partnerships.

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- Previous newspaper industry, home delivery or related experience
- Previous management or supervisory experience
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The Jewish Voice **LEGAL NOTICES**

**NEED TO PUBLISH A LEGAL NOTICE? CALL: 800-998-0885 OR EMAIL: LEGAL@JEWISHVOICENY.COM**

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York, on the 11/1/2021, bearing Index Number NC-0001920-21/NY a copy of which may be examined at the office of the clerk, located at 111 Centre St. New York, NY 10013 grants me the right to assume the name of (first) OLGA (middle) ANDREYEVNA (last) RYABTSEVA. The city and state of my present address is ASTORIA, NY. The month & year of my birth is September 1998. The place of my birth is MOSCOW, RUSSIA. My present name is (First) OLGA (Middle) ANDREYEVNA (last) CREUTZBURG. (12/31)

Notice of Formation of Navani Square Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/16/21. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 415 East 37th St., #8G, NY, NY 10016. Purpose: any lawful activities. (12/31-2/4)

Notice of Qualification of Vasa Creative LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/17/21. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 11/15/21. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 2723 Broadway, Apt. 1723, NY, NY 10024. Address to be maintained in DE: 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Arts of Org. filed with the Secy. of State, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities. (12/31-2/4)

Hakki & Bolca Foods, LLC. Authority filed SSNY 04/15/21. Office: NY Co. LLC formed DE 10/26/20. Exists in DE: 16192 Coastal Hwy., Lewes, DE 19958. SSNY designated agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served & mail to: c/o National Registered Agents, Inc., 28 Liberty St., NY, NY 10005, also the registered agent upon whom process may be served. Cert of Formation Filed: Secy. of State, Division of Corporations John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St. - Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. General Purpose. (12/31-2/4)

KIM TUCKER LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 12/14/2021. Off. Loc.: New York Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to: KIM TUCKER LLC 511 CANAL STREET, 6TH FL. NEW YORK, NY, 10013, USA. Purpose: Any Legal. (12/31-2/4)

ACCENT MEDICAL SERVICES, PLLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 12/14/2021. Off. Loc.: New York Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The PLLC, 233 Broadway, Suite 2750, New York, NY 10279-2704, USA. Purpose: Medical. (12/31-2/4)

THIS IS US LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 09/13/21 Off. Loc.: KINGS SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail proc to: the LLC 230 Hull St. Brooklyn, NY 11233 Filer: CHEYENNE MOSELEY c/o LEGAL ZOOM INC 9900 SPECTRUM DR AUSTIN, TX 78717. Reg Agent: KISAAN DENISE HOWARD 230 Hull St. Brooklyn, NY 11233 Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Qualification of InCloud, LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/8/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 3/18/14. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is CT Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Qualification of Known Holdings LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/13/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 3/31/21. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 31 W. 11th St, Ste 1A, NY, NY 10011. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Qualification of Ladder Capital Finance X REIT LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/10/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 9/24/21. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Qualification of Ladder Capital Finance XTRS LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/9/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 9/24/21. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Qualification of LDI Holding Company, LLC. The fictitious name is: LDI Diplomat Holding Company, LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/10/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 8/17/16. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is CT Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Qualification of AGORA BRANDS LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/09/21. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/13/21. NYS fictitious name: DTC ROLL-UP LLC. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State of DE, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Formation of CSA PRESERVATION PARTNERS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/08/21. Office location: NY County. Princ. office of LLC: 116 E. 27th St., 11th Fl., NY, NY 10016. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Real estate. (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Formation of CSA PRESERVATION PARTNERS MANAGER LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/08/21. Office location: NY County. Princ. office of LLC: 116 E. 27th St., 11th Fl., NY, NY 10016. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Real estate. (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Qualification of DMS PROMOTIONS, LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/12/21. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 05/08/14. Princ. office of LLC: 520 Broad St., Newark, NJ 07102. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Qualification of GALLAGHER VOLUNTARY BENEFITS, LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/08/21. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 05/27/20. Princ. office of LLC: 2850 Golf Rd., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: CSC, 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with State of DE, Secy. of State, 401 Federal St., #4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Formation of GRFO 30 BRADHURST LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/16/21. Office location: NY County. Princ. office of LLC: 100 W. 89th St., Apt. 5D, NY, NY 10024. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Doron Greenberg at the princ. office of the LLC. Purpose: Any lawful activity. (12/24-1/28)

NB1 #5 NY, LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 12/20/2021. Off. Loc.: New York Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail proc.: c/o Edelstein Law Group PC, 1350 Ave Of The Americas, 2 FL., New York, NY 10019, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. (12/24-1/28)

MJM 171 CALYER LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 12/07/2021 Off. Loc.: NEW YORK SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail proc to: MJM 171 CALYER LLC 511 CANAL STREET, 4TH FL. NEW YORK, NY, 10013, USA Purpose: Any lawful act or activity (12/24-1/28)

NEW DAWN PERSPECTIVES LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 11/18/21 Off. Loc.: KINGS SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail proc to: the LLC 77 Sands Street, Room 7002, Brooklyn, NY 11201 Filer: CHEYENNE MOSELEY c/o LEGAL ZOOM INC 9900 SPECTRUM DR AUSTIN, TX, 78717 Reg Agent: UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC. 7014 13TH AVENUE, SUITE 202 BROOKLYN, NY 11228 Purpose: Any lawful act or activity (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Formation of Wilton East LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/19/21. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The Management Group, 8383 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 400, Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Purpose: any lawful activities. (12/24-1/28)

Notice of Formation of BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS MERGER SUB, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/12/21. Office location: NY County. Princ. office of LLC: 295 Madison Ave., 5th Fl., NY, NY 10017. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Purpose: Any lawful activity. (12/17-1/21)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York, on the 5th day of November, 2020, bearing Index Number NC-001954-21/NY a copy of which may be examined at the office of the clerk, located at 111 Centre St. New York, N.Y grants me the right to assume the name of (first) KWASI (Middle) HOPE OSEI (last) AGYEMANG My present address is Brooklyn, NY; the date of my birth is November, 1990; the place of my birth is Brooklyn, NY; my present name is (first) OSEI-AKWASI (middle) HOPE (last) AGYEMANG (12/17)

Notice of Formation of Hungwy Hippo Holdings, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 11/12/21. Office location: NY County. Princ. bus. addr.: c/o Offit Kurman, 590 Madison Ave., 6th Fl., NY, NY 10022. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Cogency Global Inc., 122 E. 42nd St., 18th Fl., NY, NY 10168. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/17-1/21)

Notice of Qualification of BLOSSOM MERGER SUB II, LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/2/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 6/3/21. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 187 Wolf Rd, Ste 101, Albany, NY 12205. DE address of LLC: 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/17- 1/21)

Notice of Qualification of Broken Mold Productions, LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/7/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 1/8/20. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/17-1/21)

Notice of Qualification of CG Sawaya LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/3/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 11/16/21. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is CT Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/17-1/21)

Notice of Formation of Hirshel Kahn Dermatology, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/8/21. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 187 Wolf Rd, Ste 101, Albany, NY 12205. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is Business Filings Incorporated, 187 Wolf Rd, Ste 101, Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: Medicine. (12/17-1/21)

Notice of Formation of DD ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/12/21. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Marcus & Pollack LLP, 633 3rd Ave., Fl. 9, NY, NY 10017. Purpose: any lawful activities. (12/17-1/21)

Notice of Formation of BB ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/12/21. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Marcus & Pollack LLP, 633 3rd Ave., Fl. 9, NY, NY 10017. Purpose: any lawful activities. (12/17-1/21)

Notice of Formation of CC ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/12/21. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Marcus & Pollack LLP, 633 3rd Ave., Fl. 9, NY, NY 10017. Purpose: any lawful activities. (12/17-1/21)

MILKY 100 LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/07/21. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 249 Smith Street, #140, Brooklyn, NY 11237. Purpose: Any lawful purpose (12/17-1/21)

Onyx Physical Therapy PLLC filed w/ SSNY 5/7/20. Off. in Kings Co. SSNY desig. as agt. of PLLC whom process may be served & shall mail process to the PLLC, 1612 E. 35th St, Brooklyn, NY 11234. Any lawful purpose. (12/10- 1/14)

Notice of Qualification of Flyhomes Brokerage, LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/23/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Washington (WA) on 12/21/18. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. WA address of LLC: 1201 Western Ave, Ste 100, Seattle, WA 98101. Cert. of Formation filed with WA Secy of State, 801 Capitol Way S, Olympia, WA 98504. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is CT Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/10-1/14)

Notice of Qualification of HILLCREST ENHANCED YIELD & INCOME FUND MANAGER, LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/18/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 2/9/21. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 12 E. 49th St, Fl. 11, NY, NY 10017. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/10-1/14)

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Notice of Qualification of Invenery Wind Offshore LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/29/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 12/5/18. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/10- 1/14)

Notice of Qualification of LAURA MERCIER US BUYER LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 10/26/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 9/13/21. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/10- 1/14)

6603 MYRTLE LLC, Auth. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 08/30/2021. Cty: KINGS. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom proc. may be served & shall mail copy of proc: 6603 MYRTLE LLC 1220 BAY RIDGE AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY, 11219. Filer: SIN YI CHANG 1220 BAY RIDGE AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY, 11219, USA Purp: any lawful. (12/10- 1/14)

SOHO NEWMAN LLC Auth. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 10/13/2021. Cty: NY SSNY desig. as agent upon whom proc. may be served & shall mail copy of proc: DEREK A. NEWMAN 6414 CAVALLERI ROAD, DN@ NEWMANLAW.COM, MALIBU, CA, 90265 Filer: ALEXIS BREWER 2101 FOURTH AVE, SUITE 1500 SEATTLE, WA, 98121 Reg Agent: DEREK A. NEWMAN 136 BAXTER STREET, UNIT 5-A, NEW YORK, NY, 10013, USA purpose: any legal. (12/10- 1/14)

Notice of Qualification of Kingfisher Mobile USA LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 10/6/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/15/20. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

Notice of Qualification of CI Capital Partners IV, LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State: 11/15/21. Office location: NY County. Princ. bus. addr.: 500 Park Ave, 8th Fl, NY, NY 10022. LLC formed in DE: 9/27/21. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Cogency Global Inc. (CGI), 122 E. 42nd St., 18th Fl., NY, NY 10168. DE addr. of LLC: CGI, 850 New Burton Rd., Ste. 201, Dover, DE 19904. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes. (11/26- 12/31)

Notice of Formation of J.LANFRANCO FASTENER SYSTEMS USA LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/19/21. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/10- 1/14)

Notice of Qualification of Mideast Division Logistics, LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/29/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 3/20/17. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/10- 1/14)

Notice of Qualification of KABC TELEVISION, LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/17/21. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 03/30/21. Princ. office of LLC: 77 W. 66th St., NY, NY 10023. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Owns operates licensee of WABC-TV. (12/10- 1/14)

NEW YORK NEWMAN LLC Auth. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 01 /05 /2021. Cty: NY SSNY desig. as agent upon whom proc. may be served & shall mail copy of proc: CAPITOL SERVICES INC 1218 CENTRAL AVE SUITE 100 ALBANY NY, 12205 Filer: ARYLINE SORRELLS, 2101 4th AVE, SUITE 1500, SEATTLE, WA, 98121 purpose: any legal. (12/10- 1/14)

Notice of Qualification of Managed Healthcare Partners LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/9/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Florida (FL) on 5/7/09. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 8700 W Flagler St, Ste 400, Miami, FL, 33174. FL address of LLC: 8700 W Flagler St, Ste 400, Miami, FL, 33174. Cert. of Formation filed with FL Secy of State, 2415 N Monroe St, Ste 810, Tallahassee, FL 32303. Purpose: any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

Formation of GK NEW YORK VENTURES LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/28/2021. Office loc.: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to 2835 North Hwy., A1A, Unit 601, Indialantic, FL 32903. Purpose: Any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

Notice of Qualification of Kadens Capital US LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/12/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 11/8/21. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, Fl. 42, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, Fl. 42, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (12/10- 1/14)

FOSH MART LLC Auth. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 12/01/2021. Cty: RICHMOND. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom proc. may be served & shall mail copy of proc: RUSHFILING, INC, PO BOX 341490, LOS ANGELES, CA, 90034, USA Filer: RUSHFILING, INC. 1010 N. CENTRAL AVE., GLENDALE, CA, 91202, USA (12/10- 1/14)

Karibell Cakes LLC Auth. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 11/08/2021. Cty: KINGS SSNY desig. as agent upon whom proc. may be served & shall mail copy of proc: the LLC 1532 Kimball Street Brooklyn NY 11234 Filer: CHEYENNE MOSELEY c/o LEGAL ZOOM INC 9900 SPECTRUM DR AUSTIN, TX, 78717 Reg Agent: Karen Christine Campbell 1532 Kimball Street Brooklyn NY 11234 purpose: any legal. (12/10- 1/14)

DIAMOND 45 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/03/21. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 45 Diamond Street, Brooklyn, NY 11222. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. (12/10- 1/14)

Notice of Formation of Marc Acquisitions, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 10/29/21. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

Notice of Formation of TOMCHIN FAMILY 2021 LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/16/21. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Joy Tomchin, 252 7th Ave., Apt. 15D, NY, NY 10001. Purpose: Any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS U.S BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE RMAC TRUST, SERIES 2016-CTT, ITS SUCCESSOR AND ASSIGNS, Plaintiff AGAINST Michael Singh AKA Michael J. Singh, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated June 17, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Outside on courthouse steps on Adams Street, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on January 13, 2022 at 10:30AM, premises known as 83 COOPER STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11207. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 3433, Lot 51. Approximate amount of judgment \$514,368.24 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 5137/2013. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the Kings County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Administration (OCA) website (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Robert A. Abrams, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 70095

(12/10- 12/31)

ALINA MUR LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 11/16/21. Off. Loc.: NEW YORK SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail proc to: the LLC 39 Carmine St, Apt 4D New York, NY, 10014 Filer: CHEYENNE MOSELEY c/o LEGAL ZOOM INC 9900 SPECTRUM DR AUSTIN, TX, 78717 Reg Agent: ALINA MURAVSKAIA 39 Carmine St, Apt 4D New York, NY, 10014 Any lawful act or activity (12/3-1/7)

Notice of Qualification of MXI Environmental Services LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/9/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in New Jersey (NJ) on 8/18/2000. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. NJ address of LLC: 26319 Old Trail Rd, Abingdon, VA 24210. Cert. of Formation filed with NJ Secy of State, 33 W State St, FL 5, Trenton, NJ 08608. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

Notice of Formation of SMJSB, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/09/21. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. Purpose: Any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

GEN123 LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 11/10/2021. Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail proc.: 944 42 nd Street, Unit 1A, Brooklyn, NY 11219, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose (12/3-1/7)

Notice of Formation of Nabifour, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/1/21. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

Notice of Qualification of JOY HALO ROYALTY CO LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/10/21. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 04/27/21. Princ. office of LLC: 115 Broadway, FL 5, NY, NY 10006. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: c/o CSC, 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York County on 11/05/2021, bearing Index Number NC-001971-21/NY, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 111 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) ESTEFANIA (Middle) ALEJANDRA (Last) DAVIDOW CASTELLANOS. My present name is (First) STEPHANIE (Middle) ALEXANDRA (Last) DAVIDOW AKA STEPHANIE A DAVIDOW. The city and state of my present address is New York, NY. My place of birth is Staten Island, New York. The month and year of my birth are June 1990. (12/3)

Notice of Formation of Northside Center Real Estate, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/11/21. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1475 Park Ave, NY, NY 10029. Purpose: any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

Notice of Formation of PMP DST LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/10/21. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Milstein Brothers Capital, 335 Madison Ave., 24th Fl., NY, NY 10017. Purpose: Any lawful activity (11/26- 12/31)

Iconic Manager LLC, Auth. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) 11/9/21. Cty: NY. LLC org. in DE 3/18/19. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom proc. may be served & shall mail copy of proc. 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE off. addr: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert of Form on file: SSDE, Townsend Bldg., Dover, DE 19901. Purp: any lawful. (12/3- 1/7)

Notice of Qualification of OneDigital KP LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 10/29/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/28/21. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

535 KENT 2D LLC. Filed 11/19/21. Office: KINGS Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 176 Penn Street, Bklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: General. (11/26- 12/31)

Notice of Qualification of KEPLR VISION, LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 9/16/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/2/19. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

535 KENT 5A LLC. Filed 11/19/21. Office: KINGS Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 176 Penn Street, Bklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: General. (11/26- 12/31)

570 WYTHE 7B LLC. Filed 11/19/21. Office: KINGS Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 176 Penn Street, Bklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: General. (11/26- 12/31)

Notice of Formation of MYCOSCOPE LLC with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/23/2021 Office loc.: KINGS County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to filer: NADIM ATALLA 20 MARCY AVE APT 3, BROOKLYN, NY, 11211 Purpose: Any lawful activity. (11/26- 12/31)

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Ivan Ramen Franchising, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/12/21. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 42 Maple St, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Purpose: any lawful act. (11/19-12/24)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York County on 11/05/2021, bearing Index Number NC-001968-21/NY, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 111 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) ROBERT (Middle) ANTHONY (Last) PICON (seniority) JR My present name is (First) ROBERT (Middle) ANTHONY (Last) PICON AKA ROB A PICON AKA ROBERT A PICON The city and state of my present address are Bronx, NY My place of birth is MANHATTAN, NEW YORK The month and year of my birth are August, 1972. (11/19)

Notice of Qualification of OMNICOM COMMERCE GROUP LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/28/21. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 09/01/21. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: CSC, 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Secy. of State, Div. of Corps., John G. Townsend Bldg., 401 Federal St.-Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity. (11/12- 12/17)

Notice of Qualification of International Data Repository LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/3/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 7/19/21. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St, Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (11/12- 12/17)

555 MONTAUK LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 11/16/2021. Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail proc.: 555 Montauk Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. (11/26- 12/31)

Notice of Formation of JMJ EAST SYRACUSE LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/12/2021 Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: JMJ EAST SYRACUSE LLC 511 CANAL STREET, 4TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY, 10013, USA Purpose: Any lawful activity. (11/19-12/24)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York County on 11/03/2021, bearing Index Number NC-001895-21/NY, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 111 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) CHRISTINA (Middle) CASANOVA (Last) LIDER My present name is (First) CHRISTINA (Middle) ASHLEY (Last) LIDER AKA CHRISTINA ASHLEY CASANOVA The city and state of my present address are Brooklyn, NY My place of birth is QUEENS, NEW YORK The month and year of my birth are February 1990 (11/19)

Notice of Qualification of HEFFERNAN ROSE CITY LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/25/21. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Oregon (OR) on 08/20/21. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. OR addr. of LLC: 10011 SE Division St., Ste. 300, Portland, OR 97266. Cert. of Form. filed with OR Secy. of State, Public Service Bldg., 255 Capitol St. NE, Ste. 151, Salem, OR 97310. Purpose: Insurance agency. (11/12- 12/17)

Notice of Formation of JAGR MIDTOWN EAST LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 10/28/21. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 131 W. 21st St, NY, NY 10011. Purpose: any lawful activity. (11/12- 12/17)

SILVERSTAR MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 10/25/2021. Off. Loc.: New York Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail proc.: c/o Horing Welikson Rosen & Dirugilliers PC, Attention: Richard T. Walsh, 11 Hillside Avenue, Williston Park, NY 11596, USA. Purpose: Any lawful Purpose (11/26- 12/31)

Notice of Formation of JMJ ACQUISITIONS LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/12/2021 Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: JMJ ACQUISITIONS LLC 511 CANAL STREET, 4TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY, 10013, Purpose: Any lawful activity. (11/19-12/24)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York County on 11/05/2021, bearing Index Number NC-001972-21/NY, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 111 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) LUIGIA (Last) DILUCA AKA LOUISE DILUCA The city and state of my present address are BROOKLYN, NEW YORK My place of birth is Naples, Italy The month and year of my birth are May, 1955 (11/19)

Notice of Formation of PARADA CERO LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/26/21. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Pablo Ariel Jezierski, 30 W. 63rd St., Apt. 24 MN, NY, NY 10023. Purpose: Any lawful activity. (11/12- 12/17)

Notice of Qualification of JMS Renewable Energy LLC. Authority filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/4/21. Office location: New York County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/13/21. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. DE address of LLC: 1209 Orange St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, 401 Federal St. Ste 4, Dover, DE 19901. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. (11/12- 12/17)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York, on the 5th day of November, 2020, bearing Index Number NC-001973-21/NY a copy of which may be examined at the office of the clerk, located at 111 Centre St. New York, N.Y grants me the right to assume the name of (first) HENRY (middle) QINZENG (last) ZHENG My present address is Long Island City, NY; the month and year of my birth is October, 1991; the place of my birth is FEZHOU, CHINA; my present name is (first) QIN ZENG (last) ZHENG (11/26)

RTJ I, LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 11/5/2021. Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail proc.: 189 Schermerhorn St., Apt 6D, Brooklyn, NY 11201, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. (11/19-12/24)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York County on 11/05/2021, bearing Index Number NC-001972-21/NY, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 111 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) LUIGIA (Last) DILUCA AKA LOUISE DILUCA The city and state of my present address are BROOKLYN, NEW YORK My place of birth is Naples, Italy The month and year of my birth are May, 1955 (11/19)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York, on the 5th day of November, 2020, bearing Index Number NC-001974-21/NY a copy of which may be examined at the office of the clerk, located at 111 Centre St. New York, N.Y grants me the right to assume the name of (first) JENNA (middle) MARIE (last) MOGILEVSKY My present address is Ridgewood, NY; the month and year of my birth is April, 1992; the place of my birth is ROBBINSDALE, MINNESOTA; my present name is (first) JENNA (last) DELESHA AKA JENNA MARIE DELESHA (11/26)

Notice of Qualification of ZBS Valhalla, LLC. Authority filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/11/12. Office location: NY County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/07/21. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3 Landmark Square, Ste. 515, Stamford, CT 06901. Address to be maintained in DE: 1209 West Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Arts of Org. filed with the Secy. of State—DE, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: any lawful activities. (11/19-12/24)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York, on the 5th day of November, 2020, bearing Index Number NC-001961-21/NY a copy of which may be examined at the office of the clerk, located at 111 Centre St. New York, N.Y grants me the right to assume the name of (first) JADE (middle) SOPHIA (last) OVADIA My present address is New York, NY; the month and year of my birth is March, 2001; the place of my birth is Queens, NY; my present name is (first) JADE (last) OVADIA AKA JADE OVADIA (11/26)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York, on the 5th day of November, 2020, bearing Index Number NC-001961-21/NY a copy of which may be examined at the office of the clerk, located at 111 Centre St. New York, N.Y grants me the right to assume the name of (first) JADE (middle) SOPHIA (last) OVADIA My present address is New York, NY; the month and year of my birth is March, 2001; the place of my birth is Queens, NY; my present name is (first) JADE (last) OVADIA AKA JADE OVADIA (11/26)

Notice of Formation of APRIL INVESTORS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/13/21. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: the Company, c/o 19 West 34 th St., Ste. 918, NY, NY 10001. Purpose: any lawful activities. (11/19-12/24)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York, on the 5th day of November, 2020, bearing Index Number NC-001966-21/NY a copy of which may be examined at the office of the clerk, located at 111 Centre St. New York, N.Y grants me the right to assume the name of (first) SOLLEEANN (last) SOLLIVAN My present address is Bronx, NY; the month and year of my birth is March, 1995; the place of my birth is Bronx, NY; my present name is (first) SOLLEEANN (last) SOLLIVAN AKA SOLAR LEANN SOLLIVAN (11/19)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York, on the 5th day of November, 2020, bearing Index Number NC-001967-21/NY a copy of which may be examined at the office of the clerk, located at 111 Centre St. New York, N.Y grants me the right to assume the name of (first) BEN (last) BEITEL My present address is Brooklyn, NY; the month and year of my birth is July, 1975; the place of my birth is RAMAT GAN, ISRAEL; my present name is (first) BINYAMIN (middle) ZEV (last) BEITEL (11/26)

NW 153G 256N LENDER LLC, Arts of Org. filed SSNY 10/13/21. Office: NY Co. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process may be served & mail to National Registered Agents, Inc., 28 Liberty St., NY, NY 10005, also the registered agent upon whom process may be served. General Purpose. (11/19-12/24)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York, on the 5th day of November, 2020, bearing Index Number NC-001945-21/NY, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 111 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) PETER CHONG PHAT (Last) LY My present name is (First) CHONG PHAT (Last) LY AKA PETER CHONGPHAT LY AKA PETER CHONG PHAT LY The city and state of my present address are Brooklyn, NY My place of birth is HONG KONG SAR The month and year of my birth are MAY, 1979 (11/19)

SLKR REALTY LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 11/12/2021. Off. Loc.: New York Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Ms. Sandra Reiter, 132A East 65 th Street, PH3, New York, NY 10065, USA. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity. (11/19-12/24)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York County on 11/04/2021, bearing Index Number NC-001945-21/NY, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 111 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) PETER CHONG PHAT (Last) LY My present name is (First) CHONG PHAT (Last) LY AKA PETER CHONGPHAT LY AKA PETER CHONG PHAT LY The city and state of my present address are Brooklyn, NY My place of birth is HONG KONG SAR The month and year of my birth are MAY, 1979 (11/19)

105 TH LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 11/15/2021. Off. Loc.: New York Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served & shall mail proc.: 147 W. 35 th St., Ste 903, New York, NY 10001, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. (11/19-12/24)

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, New York County on 11/04/2021, bearing Index Number NC-001945-21/NY, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 111 Centre Street, New York, NY 10013, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) PETER CHONG PHAT (Last) LY My present name is (First) CHONG PHAT (Last) LY AKA PETER CHONGPHAT LY AKA PETER CHONG PHAT LY The city and state of my present address are Brooklyn, NY My place of birth is HONG KONG SAR The month and year of my birth are MAY, 1979 (11/19)



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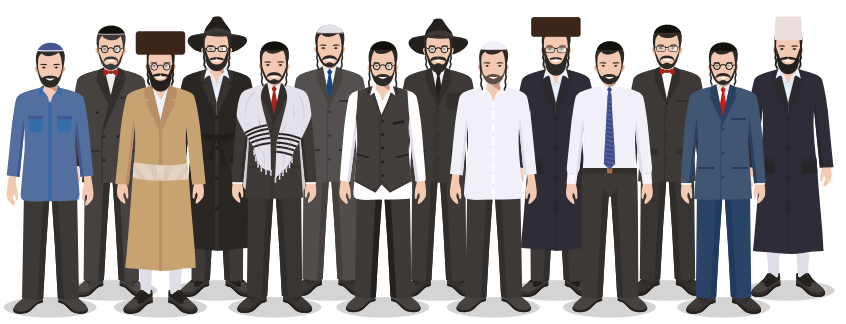
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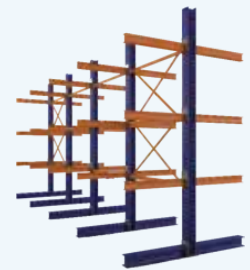
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